

More to pollution than oil slicks

Brixton could become like Harlem, police chief says

By Lucy Hodges

The police officer who devised the Swamp 81 police operation, which took place the week before the riot, agreed yesterday that he had no figures at the time to show a rapidly rising crime rate in Brixton.

Det Chief Inspector Jeremy Plowman, who joined Brixton police station about six weeks before devising the operation to combat muggings, told the Scarman inquiry at Lambeth Town Hall that it was his assessment that the crime rate had risen alarmingly in March this year.

Cross-examined by Mr Robin Auld, QC, leading counsel for the inquiry, Mr Plowman said that the March crime figures bore out his assessment of Brixton's crime rate.

There were four cases of rape, 110 of robbery, 109 assaults, 109 thefts and 447 burglaries in the whole Lambeth district. That was more than any other month in the previous 12 months.

In reply to questions from Mr John Hazan, counsel for the Metropolitan Police, Mr Plowman said if nothing was done there was a danger of Brixton becoming like Harlem in New York, where you cannot walk through the area without being stopped and robbed.

If he had been warned that the Swamp operation, in which 100 plainclothes officers flooded the area stopping and questioning people, was creating tension, likely to lead to disorder, he would have called it off.

He agreed that it was desirable to return to the old patrolling style of uniformed officers on the beat, but said he did not think they could cope with the kind of crime experienced in Brixton.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, counsel for Scarman, a group of local residents, suggested that Swamp 81 created its own crime. Officers in Brixton arising from Swamp were directly related to the police stopping people, he said.

Of those, three were assaults on police officers and five were obstructions to the police. "The fact of Swamp 81 is to

generate crime which has got nothing to do with what the operation is about," Mr Blom-Cooper said.

Mr Plowman disagreed. Those offences had to be weighed against the drop in crime caused by the operation. "You cannot say that," Mr Blom-Cooper commented. "It is simply guesswork."

Lord Scarman suggested that in an area such as Brixton, where relations between blacks and the police were so delicate, a swamp operation could generate its own crime. Mr Plowman agreed. There was only one charge of assault against police in the other three areas swamped in Lambeth.

Mr Blom-Cooper pointed out that 18 of the 35 charges brought against people in Brixton as a result of Swamp 81 were for charges of assault. There were three charges for assault and obstructing the police, three drug offences, and seven for offensive weapons.

Mr Plowman said possession of an offensive weapon was serious. In view of local muggings. He agreed that the incident in which a minicab driver was questioned in Atlantic Road was the spark for the main violence on Saturday, April 11.

"That, of course, was a search for drugs, no victim was involved and so it did not relate directly to what you were worried about, robbery and drug offences," Mr Blom-Cooper said.

"That operation was conducted by Swamp 81. Do you still say Swamp 81 had nothing to do with promoting the violence?" Mr Plowman said "yes".

Mr John Moss, assistant chief ambulance officer for London, told the inquiry that he, involved a major emergency plan during the riot when he saw the harassment to which his crews were subjected. His action was unprecedented.

He instructed his men to wear fluorescent jackets and helmets. Seven ambulances were damaged, four seriously, and on Saturday night it had been impossible to penetrate Roffin

Road from the north to reach a burnt youth, because of the bombardment.

Mr John Clare, the BBC's Community Affairs Correspondent, described how almost as soon as he arrived on the scene of the riot on Saturday he saw three plain clothes men carrying riot shields. One had a three-foot staff, another an axe handle and a third a piece of solid rubber hose.

"I was in no doubt that they were policemen," Mr Clare said. "They were associating with the police on two occasions. I saw them take part in charges down Mayall Road."

Mr Clare said he spoke to the man carrying the axe handle and asked him if he was a policeman. He said "yes" rather sheepishly and gave me a hard stare. The conversation did not seem worth pursuing."

Commander Fairbairn, the senior officer in charge of the police operation, was close by the three men and there was no question he would have seen them," he said. Mr Clare explained how he had met a group of rioters at one point who were wearing masks and who demanded to see his press card.

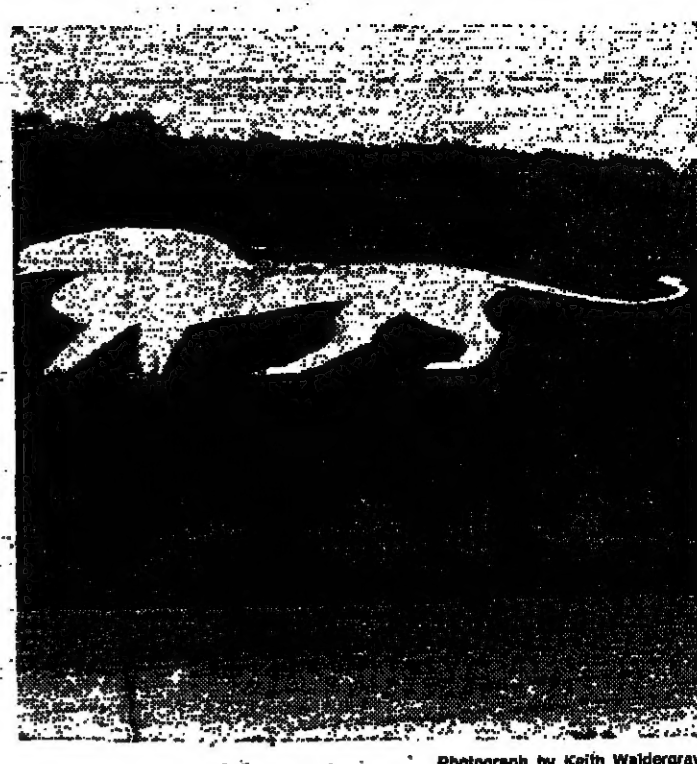
At one point he saw the police stop a struggling youth against a wire fence and punch him. But it was not only the youths who suffered. He said he saw about a score of police being struck between 7 pm and 9.30 pm by missiles. Some simply collapsed.

Mr Clare, like Miss Caroline Russell in her evidence the day before, described how three policemen were beaten up by a group who had taken a flash picture of a youth being arrested. His camera was then stamped on repeatedly in the gutter.

Mr Hazan, for the Metropolitan Police, objected to those allegations of police brutality and said he hoped Lord Scarman would make his findings about them in his report. Lord Scarman commented: "At the end of the day the report is mine and mine alone."



A black eye for the 483ft long white lion cut into the Downs at Whipsnade Park zoo, near Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The lion received the new wooden eye yesterday in a sprucing up operation by ratings from HMS Daedalus, the Fleet Air Arm's air engineering school at Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire. The four helping to spread 80 tons of chalk on the lion are, from left, David Cook, Richard Moran, Rob Hurley and Don Gledhill.



Photograph by Keith Waldgrave

Gallery tries for Poussin and Algardi

By Frances Gibb

The Manchester City Art Gallery is trying to save two significant works of art, worth more than £2m, which are due to be exported to American museums in three months.

The works are a painting by Nicolas Poussin, "Holy Family with the Infant St John," sold by the Duke of Devonshire for £1.8m jointly to the Paul Getty Museum and the Norton Simon Foundation, and a marble bust by Algardi, sold to the Metropolitan Museum in New York for £265,000.

The gallery, a leading one in the provinces, whose annual purchase grant is just more than £100,000, is to make a public appeal for funds next week. It is hoping to raise three bulk of the funds from donations and will seek help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Distortion and TV news coverage IBA rejects inquiry on alleged bias

By Kenneth Gosling

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has rejected a request from Glasgow University Media Group for an inquiry into the group's findings alleging bias and distortion in the presentation of news and current affairs.

It has also refused to ask one of the programme companies to present a documentary on the group's research.

"It would not be appropriate for one of our companies to have to sit in judgment on itself," Mr Colin Shaw, IBA Director of Programmes, said yesterday.

The IBA and BBC have been deeply involved in separate discussions about the Glasgow reports, which include *Bad News* and *More Bad News*.

Mr Peter Ibbotson, editor of *Newsweek* says that there are so many pressure groups

closely watching current affairs broadcasts that it becomes necessary only to say something they do not agree with for that to be interpreted as bias.

Richard Francis, BBC Director of News and Current Affairs, takes the Glasgow groups activities seriously, and considers the findings enhance the myth that a body of academic opinion exists that proves there is bias in the broadcasters' handling of news.

The public view of bias has been thoroughly canvassed in a survey commissioned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

In a section headed *Television as a Source of Political Bias and Offensiveness*, 13 per cent of viewers allege that independent television is politically biased, with 21 per cent believing that to be true of the BBC.

Of the 13 per cent alleging ITV bias, 64 per cent favoured the Labour Party, while of the 21 per cent on the BBC side, 78 per cent favoured the Conservatives.

On the BBC, viewers singled out *Panorama*, *Nationwide* and *Question Time* as presenting biased coverage. On the commercial channel they were not quite so sure or specific, though a few did mention *TV Eye* and *World in Action*.

The BBC does not keep groups like the Glasgow one at arm's length. Mr Ibbotson is meeting one of their representatives this weekend.

He thinks the issue has two levels: first, that for some years various sections of society have considered the media to be biased against them; and secondly, those who for political purposes are looking for bias.

"But even in the first category you have to distinguish between cases where the Glasgow group is obviously right and the others where, if people don't agree with a point they call it a form of bias."

At the IBA, Mr Colin Shaw, Director of Television, says the Glasgow team had asked the authority for an inquiry into the findings of its research and also wanted the IBA to get one of its programme companies to mount a programme about that research.

In reply, Mr Shaw says: "There are points in the Glasgow findings; but we are content to rest on our assessment, and on the present evidence we feel there is no justification for more than that."

Remand law changes proposed

By Our Legal Correspondent

A law proposed by the Government would make it unnecessary for prisoners remanded in custody to be brought before a court at eight-day intervals, as the present law insists.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said in a written answer to the House of Commons that an emergency measure introduced during the recent prison officers' dispute, which allowed defendants to be remanded in their absence, had generally worked well.

He considered that the unnecessarily heavy burden on the police caused by their having to arrange to bring prisoners to court at weekly intervals could be eased without damaging defendants' interests.

The Home Secretary emphasized that under the proposed law, defendants would be remanded in their absence only with their consent, and provided they were legally represented (although the lawyer would not necessarily have to be present in court each time).

Mr Whitelaw said that the eight-day remand cycle would remain. The defendant would be present at the first remand, but it was still being considered whether all subsequent remands could take place in his absence, or whether his personal appearance would still be required at, say, monthly intervals.

GPs prescribe an end to patients' sick notes

By Nicholas Timmins

Doctors are sick of signing notes for patients who are ill. They provide four million of them a year and say they have had enough of this "confetti certification".

The notes are needed for the Department of Health and Social Security to pay sick pay when someone is off work for four days or more, and are demanded by many employers as proof that their workforce is not malingering.

Doctors say the notes are largely meaningless. They state that a patient has had "flu", or "nerves" or backache, or other minor conditions for which there is little proof other than the patient's word. Many patients only call in for the note only when they have recovered, to satisfy their employer. They are a waste of medical time, that could be better used.

The doctors believe that the Government's plans to switch the responsibility of paying sick pay entirely to the employer for the first eight weeks of illness, means that at last they have the chance to be rid of them.

To encourage Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, to stick to his timetable of disposing of short-term notes from April next year, the family doctors' annual conference in London on Wednesday decided to stop signing short-term notes unilaterally from January 1, if they are not convinced that the scheme is coming in.

It is hard to see what all the fuss is about. There are 27,000 family doctors, and those four million notes average three short-term certificates a week each.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the BMA's family doctors' committee, says that three a week is a burden on top of all the other forms a GP has to sign.

Some GPs say that the occasional patient, fighting off a cough and determined to "return to work, can come in for a certificate and be found to have early pneumonia.

Doctors want a share in private medicine

General practitioners yesterday demanded a share in the boom in private medicine. By three votes, the annual conference in London of local medical committees, which represents 27,000 GPs, called for the right to be allowed to charge a fee to patients who they refer to hospital for private treatment.

The decision was taken by 106 votes to 103. Talks between the British Medical Association, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, and the provider associations, which provide the bulk of private medical insurance, have made no progress.

Bishops condemn Maze hunger-strikers

The following is the text of a statement made at the Irish Roman Catholic Bishops Conference in Maynooth, Co Kildare, on Wednesday.

We are very concerned about the serious and deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland. The continuing hunger-strike in the Maze Prison at Long Kesh has led to increasing polarization within the community and has claimed the lives of four young men within the prison but it has been accompanied by murder, bombing and street violence in which many more lives have been lost. The deaths of hunger-strikers have also been followed by outbreaks of arson, intimidation and wilful destruction of property. This heightened level of violence and vandalism, the plight of the innocent victims, the deepening divisions within the community, have consequences not just for the North itself but for the people of the whole island.

Every death and serious injury through violence call for a deep and intense sorrow, political outpouring of grief, and an equal sadness at all deaths whether the victims be Protestant or Catholic. We feel equal sympathy and compassion for all who mourn.

We repeat what the Northern bishops said during the first hunger strike last November: "The violence in our midst has generated a hideous spiral of murder, bombing, robbery, the break-up of families and disrespect for life itself. It has filled graves and prisons. It has cost lives. We solemnly declare that those who kill, wound, threaten or intimidate, those who put people in fear of their lives, or endanger their livelihoods, are guilty of evil deeds contrary to the law of God. They stand in clear opposition to the teaching of Jesus Christ as preached in all Christian churches."

"To all who bear political responsibility for the affairs of Ireland, I want to speak with the same urgency and intensity with

which I have spoken to the men of violence. Do not cause or condone or tolerate conditions which give excuse to present or future violence. Those who resort to violence always claim that only violence brings about change. They claim that political action cannot achieve justice. You politicians must prove them to be wrong. You must show that there is a peaceful political way to justice. You must show that peace achieves the work of justice, and violence does not."

At this critical juncture, we welcome the recent statement of the hunger-strike from the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace and we commend it to both sides as a positive effort to find a way out of the impasse. Like the commission we call on both sides to give an indication of their willingness to move towards a solution. We ask the prisoners and those who speak for them to make it clear that they are prepared to negotiate on clothing, association and work would, if implemented, provide the avenue for a solution. We urge the Government to show a corresponding openness on these issues.

The present disturbing situation should make us all the more determined to work together for a settlement. We urge increased understanding between Protestant and Catholic and closer social, cultural and economic cooperation between North and South. We appeal to all the Christian churches to work together for the promotion of gospel values in an Ireland increasingly threatened by secularist snarls.

We ask people not to allow themselves to be carried away by dangerous emotions. We urge them to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to redouble their prayers for a just settlement to the present conflict. We direct that as from next Sunday prayers for peace be inserted among the prayers of the faithful at all public masses even on weekdays.

We ask people to persevere in prayer always. What our Lord says to us is that we ought always to pray and never to lose heart."

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Mrs Thatcher predicts an upturn soon

ECONOMY

The welcome increase in the index of manufacturing output shown by figures published yesterday indicates that there would soon be an upturn in the economy, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at a question time in the Commons.

Mrs Thatcher stated that they must get down the rate of inflation in Britain and that the Government's policies, she expected, would lead to a fall in the coming months.

Mr Robert Dunn (Dartford, C) asked whether the figures about manufacturing output within the index of industrial production for April had been discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, and if so, what were the conclusions reached?

Mrs Thatcher (Barret, Finchley, C): The index of manufacturing output came out yesterday. It showed a welcome increase (Labour laughter).

I thought Labour MPs would have approved of an increase, or is it that they have had news and hate it when it is good?

The run of things in the manufacturing index show that the position has steadied over three or four months and that there will soon be an upturn.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinboro, Lab): We welcome any signs of good industrial news, particularly because they come so rarely.

On railway electrification and the British Rail programme, assuming that she and the Cabinet have agreed to that programme generally, may I congratulate her on accepting the wisdom of the railwaymen?

Mrs Thatcher: The best single item of news since Mrs Thatcher yielded to the miners. The Cabinet contemplates a rise in the rate of inflation to an official figure of 3.000 without any change in the policies which have been greatly contributed to those figures.

Mrs Thatcher: The reports about rail electrification in the newspapers are all over the place. Mr Foot would be well advised to wait until the matter is decided by the Government.

Mr Foot: On electrification, I was trying to keep good news when it is there, but it seems that it is not there. We shall follow it closely.

Will she tell us whether three million unemployed on the register was contained at yesterday's Cabinet? When will she get in?

Mrs Thatcher: The figures about the number of unemployed on the register were contained at yesterday's Cabinet. When will she get in?

Mr Foot: Will the Prime Minister answer the simple question: when will inflation be down to the level she has indicated?

Mrs Thatcher: I expect inflation will fall in the coming months and I expect our average performance will be vastly superior. (Conservative laughter) Bringing down inflation and inflationary expectations is an indispensable condition for re-establishing the basis for durable increases in employment and more vigorous and sustainable growth. I agree with that.

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Bid for state freight company

ROAD HAULAGE

A group of National Freight Company senior managers were seeking outside financial backing to purchase the company, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in a statement to Conservative MPs.

Mr Fowler said the proposal which was imaginative and exciting indicated an offer worth more than £50m. It was an early stage, but he had encouraged them to press on with their plans.

Mr Fowler recalled that under the provisions of the Transport Act 1968, the National Freight Corporation, created by the National Freight Act 1968, was a public body.

Mr Fowler said that the National Freight Corporation was a public body, and that the Government was considering the possibility of selling it to private investors.

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Mr James Lester (Bristol, C): He can expect a warm welcome from Conservative MPs. Far from being against co-operatives, workers have a chance of getting a share in the company from Mr Wedgwood Benn (Bristol South-East, Lab) who set up worker-cooperatives where workers in their savings and pension, and lost the lot.

Mr Fowler: I am sure Mr Lester is right. The management are seeking to raise £5m to £6m themselves from their own money, which underlines the confidence in the future of the business.

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Move on interception of mail fails

HOUSE OF LORDS

An Opposition proposal to prevent unauthorised interception of mail and provide a statutory framework for interception allowed by the Home Secretary, was rejected by 105 votes to 81 when the report stage of the British Telecommunications Bill was debated.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, for the Opposition, moved a new clause (interception of mail) which provided that anyone found guilty of unauthorised interception of mail should be liable to a fine of up to £5,000 or to imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both.

It also proposed that the Home Secretary could issue a warrant for interception, following an application by police, or customs and excise if he was satisfied it would be necessary for the purpose of the investigation of a crime.

He said that serious crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and espionage were the reasons needed by the state for protection of people. Nevertheless the opening of private letters between citizens was a serious invasion of their privacy.

The new clause would ensure that the invasion of privacy was clearly authorised by the law—not by the discretion of the Home Secretary. If it was passed, it would greatly strengthen the position of the Home Secretary in the European Convention of Human Rights.

The Earl of Gower, Minister of State for Employment, said the clause was a necessary safeguard in a civilised community.

There was no evidence of unauthorised interception. It would be difficult to carry it out without the cooperation of Post Office officials. It was a tricky business.

While being justifiably anxious about violation of privacy, there was no evidence of unauthorised interception. It would be difficult to carry it out without the cooperation of Post Office officials.

Lord Gardiner said Lord Elwyn-Jones had made out an unconvincing case. There was no doubt that unauthorised interception was a law.

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Restriction of imports demanded

TEXTILES

The textile industry was still in serious trouble even though it had completed a large measure of restructuring and had modernised itself, Mr John Birt, Secretary of State for Trade, said when he opened a debate on the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

He said the arrangement was the last in a series of arrangements which had been made to protect the industry. There had been an increasing number of ad hoc restrictions.

The EEC had bilateral agreements with 27 countries, including China, and containing over 400 quotas, 30 of which were imported into the UK.

The EEC also had voluntary restraint arrangements with some suppliers. These and other measures against state trading with some countries had not been sufficient.

The question must be asked: "Is it reasonable to demand that the textile industry should be protected by a tariff?"

Great problems faced the British clothing and textile industries. Textile imports alone had had 25 million yards of textiles imported into the UK.

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Home care helps young offenders, researchers find

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The first firm evidence that juvenile delinquents are more likely to be reformed by intensive care in their home areas than by being sent to penal institutions was offered yesterday by the umbrella group, New Approaches to Juvenile Crime. Recidivism rates for the most difficult young offenders attending intermediate treatment programmes while living at home are between 25 and 30 per cent. That compares with recidivism rates of 70 per cent for juveniles leaving detention centres and 84 per cent after going to borstals.

Both the Government and professional and voluntary bodies concerned with juvenile offenders are committed to promoting intermediate treatment, which allows delinquents and potential delinquents to live at home while taking part in a variety of programmes aimed at overcoming the causes of their delinquency. Intermediate treatment is regarded as a cheaper and potentially more effective way of preventing juvenile crime.

The new evidence, which will be published in full later this year, is based on programmes dealing with the most difficult young offenders in half a dozen of Britain's main cities.

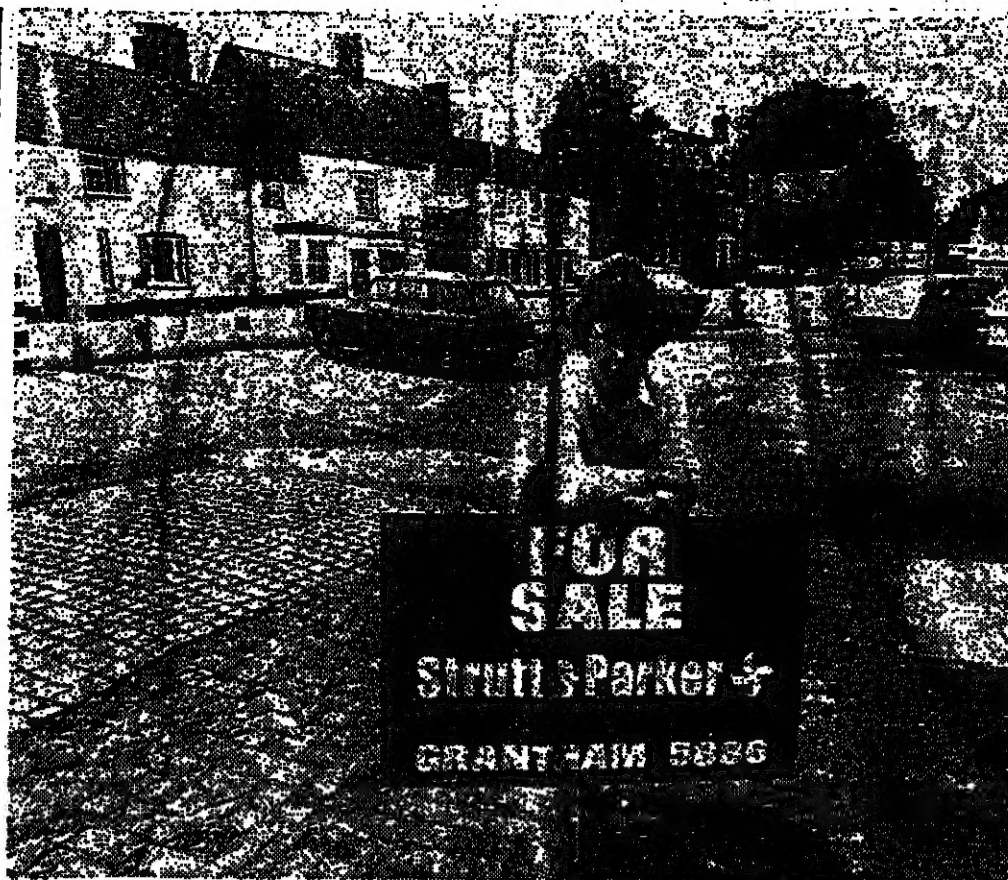
While not strictly comparable with the national figures for recidivism rates from detention centres and borstals, the evidence endorses the belief of ministers and others that intermediate treatment offers a more effective alternative to custodial treatment.

Lady Faithfull, chairman of New Approaches to Juvenile Crime, said yesterday that it was a myth that magistrates and social workers had become more lenient with delinquents. On the contrary, they had adopted a harder line by sending more young offenders into custodial and residential institutions, at much greater cost and with much lower success rates.

Lady Faithfull was introducing the group's response to the recent White Paper on young offenders, which she said could lead to even larger numbers of young people being sent to penal establishments. She called on the Government to back its commitment to intermediate treatment with adequate resources, in particular for local authority social services departments.

The organization, which represents eight national bodies including the Association of Directors of Social Services to the National Youth Bureau, is particularly concerned at the proposal to introduce a residential care order. That would give magistrates power to order the removal of a juvenile from his home for a maximum of six months.

Mr John Rea Price, director of social services for Islington, London, said the proposed new order would set back reform of juvenile delinquency and make it more difficult to provide proper care for children needing a period of residential care for therapeutic reasons.



Photographs by Ian Wright

His lordship parts company with the car park

By Baron Phillips

Next Friday Mr Ray Knappett, of Strutt & Parker, the chartered surveyors, will auction the titles and deeds to 14 Lordships of the Manor in the Moor Hall above Colchester's historic town hall.

One of the more interesting lordships covers the freehold of Market Place, Donington, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, where Mrs Jan Baron (above) is handling the sale.

The freehold of the title covers land used as a car park and this element is being sought separately from the main part of the Lordship of the Manor, which dates from the reign of Queen Anne.

Mr Knappett first auctioned a series of Lordships of the Manor nearly 30 years ago when the average price was £750. Initially he thought he might achieve about £3,000 each for the latest batch. But because of interest in the auction he has revised his estimate to £4,500.

Lordships of the Manor date from as early as the thirteenth century, but despite the grandness of the titles they have little practical relevance.



Mr Harry Bowden a solicitor, with the letters patent.

Belfast car company answers its critics

By Peter Waymark Motoring Correspondent

As the first American motorists took delivery of the controversial Belfast-built De Lorean sports car, the company yesterday replied to accusations of poor quality and workmanship.

The company said it had received several congratulatory telegrams from dealers about the car that went on sale in the United States on Wednesday. One dealer, in Indiana, said: "The workmanship and quality of the car far exceeds expectations". A dealer in Illinois cabled: "The condition was outstanding, congratulations on a fine job".

But American motoring writers were less impressed. Mr Don Sherman, writing in *Car and Driver*, said the models he had tried were "abysmally short of any commercial standard of acceptability".

Another American journalist, Mr Tony Swan, wrote in the British magazine, *Autocar*, of "irregularities in fit and finish. The flaws ranged from fairly serious ones down to a long list of minor irritations".

De Lorean said yesterday: "These cars were pre-production models and they were a bit rough and ready. The journalists were told they were not the definitive product. The initial difficulties have been overcome and the cars we are now building are of a high standard".

The United States is expected to be the main market for the car, which has been developed with £80m grants and loans from the British government.

Scientific sites given pledge over grants

By John Winder, Parliamentary Staff

The Government may extend the principle of the Sandford amendment, that grants for agriculture must take account of the needs of conservation and amenity, to the 3,900 sites of special scientific interest in Britain. The sites cover 1,300,000 hectares or 5.6 per cent of the area of Britain.

An undertaking to consider the possibility before the Wildlife and Countryside Bill reaches its report stage in the House of Commons next month was given yesterday to the Standing Committee considering the Bill by Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services.

Mr Stuart Housden, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, a representative of one of the conservation and amenity bodies studying proceedings on the Bill, said that if the concession were made, it would be a big step forward.

The Government's new clause, which was approved yesterday after an Opposition attempt to amend it had been rejected by 10 votes to eight, replaces the provisions added to the Bill by the House of Lords at the suggestion of Lord Sandford.

The new clause provides that a minister approving a capital grant for a farmer must do so in such a way as to further conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the countryside. The Government clause applies only to land in national parks, but if extended

at report, would apply also to sites of scientific interest including those outside national parks.

The rejected Opposition amendment would have removed words providing that the minister will have regard to conservation and amenity only so far as may be consistent with the purposes of the agricultural scheme being granted and the Agriculture Act, 1970, under which the grants are made.

An Opposition clause applying such considerations more widely was also rejected by 10 votes to eight.

Mr King, replying to the two-day debate on the Sandford principle, said that they were writing in a statutory obligation for the agriculture ministers to consult the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Government was sympathetic to an amendment to extend the principle and was considering whether it was possible to do so. If they could, he would table an amendment at report stage.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on the Bill, said they had made good progress although many of the Opposition's fears remained.

It was crucial to their assessment to know whether the Minister of Agriculture would hold the balance in the inter-ministry consultations on applications for grant.

MARCH BAN LEADS TO FINE OF £25

Peter Ronald Newell, aged 24, of Wycombe, was yesterday fined £25, with £15 costs for obstructing the highway on the route of the banned Kibura march in April in support of Robert Sands, the IRA hunger-striker.

Mr Timothy Pontius, for the prosecution, told Willesden Magistrates' Court that Mr Newell, who is unemployed, had refused to move although the police had asked him three times. The march had been prohibited under the Metropolitan Police Commissioner's ban on public processions for 28 days.

Mr Newell was originally charged with obstructing a police officer but the prosecution offered no evidence and the charge was withdrawn when he admitted obstructing the highway.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, for the defence, said Mr Newell had a strong ideological commitment to the hunger-striker, which was why he attended the demonstration.

"The prosecution has accepted already there was no violence against police officers. The offence could only have been committed as a result of the rather exceptional ban imposed", Mr Fitzgerald said.

The court heard that Mr Newell, previously a crane operator, had been unemployed since his release from prison in January after serving a six-month sentence for robbery.

Consumer courts proposed

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The National Consumer Council is studying the possibility of having special courts or tribunals to hear consumer complaints against the nationalized industries and public bodies.

Mr Jeremy Mitchell, the council's director, said yesterday that it had gathered evidence that many consumers felt it was not worth complaining because nothing effective would be done.

The council, appointed by the Government, is reviewing consumer protection legislation to find why more people do not use their legal rights.

Mr Mitchell said: "It is no good consumers having legal rights in theory if they cannot use them in practice. Suppliers of goods and services are in an immensely strong position in relation to the individual consumer. They can afford to go to law, afford delays, and easily outspend their consumer opponent."

As well as special consumer courts, the council is interested in the possibility of enabling consumer organizations to bring "class actions" along the lines adopted in the United States.

Those would be initiated where a number of consumers had suffered from a particular practice, but were unwilling to face the expense and difficulty of suing as individuals.

Winter holiday prices cut

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Ther price war in the package holiday market took a new turn yesterday.

Intasun, a big tour operator, announced an increase by a fifth on the number of winter holidays on offer and price cuts on nearly three-quarters of them, compared with last year. That means an overall price reduction of about 8 per cent.

Thomson Holidays, the largest company, has already announced price cuts on nearly 100 winter holidays.

although showing an overall increase of just over 6 per cent.

Horizon, another big operator, has cut prices on two thirds of its winter holidays.

Despite last winter's 10 per cent decline in the package holiday market, Intasun claims its initial sales response has been better than last year.

It can take a royal wedding to make you consider replacing your TV.

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The name is Philips.

More people will be watching Wimbledon and the wedding on a Philips colour TV than any other single brand.

Philips have the widest range of colour TVs around. From stylish 14 inch portables to elegant 26 inch models. All have Philips proven colour

technology. And all have reliability built in. But 'live' TV is just the beginning.

No other TV manufacturer offers you video games, Teletext, Viewdata and Video 2000.

Philips can turn your lounge into everything from a cinema to a tennis court.

So why not call in to your local video dealer and see the wide range of Philips Video products available. You could find a partner for life.

Philips Video. Simply years ahead.



Mitterrand criticizes Begin, not Israelis

Washington, June 18.—President François Mitterrand today coupled a firm condemnation of the Israeli raid of Iraq's French-built nuclear reactor with a strong attack on Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

In a front-page interview, Mitterrand told the *Washington Post*: "Even though there is a latent state of war between Israel and Iraq, it is not acceptable for a country, however just its cause, to settle its disputes by military intervention, which is patently contrary to international law. I can only express my regret for Mr Begin's initiative."

"There was no real and present danger for Israel relating to any 'diversion by Iraq of nuclear technology for military purposes'," Mitterrand added.

The President took pains, however, to establish a distinction between the Israeli Government and the Israeli people. "When we asked for condemnation (of the Israeli raid) at the Security Council, we condemned the raid, not the Israeli people," he said.

Mitterrand said France would henceforth not sign contracts for any new nuclear reactors anywhere in the world, that French technology would not be used for military purposes.

"The principle is the same for everyone," he repeated. "No nuclear reactor whose techniques would allow conversion from civilian to military purposes. It's simple."

He recalled that when he was still in opposition, he had protested against the delivery of the nuclear plant to Iraq. At the time, however, he explained, he had been unaware of a secret clause in the agreement with Iraq signed by the previous French administration, in which continued French cooperation of the Tammuz project was foreseen until 1988, thereby ensuring control over the use of the plant's production.

Had that clause been made public at the time, he added, a lot of controversy would have been avoided.

He then reproached Mr Begin with failing to provide adequate explanations immediately after the raid, such as he gave the United States, all the more so as a French engineer was killed in the attack.

Referring to Mr Begin's initial argument that the reactor was a secret underground plant for the development of an Iraqi atom bomb, Mitterrand said that "by committing an error of technical judgment, Mr Begin simultaneously committed a political error."

He said that the French Government was making efforts to find a solution to the Israeli-Arab problem.

"I want to guarantee (Israel's) existence and Mr Begin might have known as much," he said. "Yet the French did was to reduce the accumulated capital of confidence. Too bad."

Mitterrand added—Agence France Press.

□ The President's view of the Washington Post to restate the Socialist Government's policy on the Middle East conflict for a good deal of criticism in the French press (Charles Harrow writes from Paris).

M Claude Cheysson, the Minister for External Affairs, said at a luncheon for the French Diplomatic Press: "We have all journalists and Socialists, criticized the previous Government for using the media to intervene in electoral campaigns. Hence the President felt it was preferable to give the international press a newspaper. If he had thought the definition of French policy on the Middle East he wanted to give could have waited another week (until after Sunday's parliamentary elections), he would, as it often does, have given it to one or several French newspapers."

Israel spy chief calls for end to raid disclosures

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 18

The rash of official and unofficial Israeli comments about the raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor were today subjected to stern public criticism in one of the few published interviews with the acting chief of Mossad, Israel's secret service.

The anonymous intelligence chief told the Hebrew newspaper *Ha'aretz*: "I speak to stop the devil's dance of public statements and counter-statements, including disclosures of details of the operation to destroy the reactor and events that preceded this."

"The nuclear problem was not solved with the destruction of the Iraqi reactor, and these statements are liable to cause intelligence damage of the first order."

The newspaper emphasized the extreme reluctance normally shown by the Mossad chief, explaining that one reason he had agreed to grant the interview (12 days before the elections) was his agitation about the possibility of damage being done to Israeli intelligence sources.

"I appeal to, and request from, everyone that they cease picking at the issue and making unnecessary statements for the sake of Israel and for the sake of all," he said.

The unprinted interview was interpreted as indirect criticism of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, who has recently been making a steady stream of disclosures about the raid operation, codenamed Babylon.

Mr Begin's comments have already been attacked by Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, who dismissed them as "nuclear chatter."

In addition, the Israeli press has recently reprinted reports from the *Washington Star* claiming that a number of senior Israeli military figures opposed the operation. These reports have been denied by the official spokesman for Israel's military command.

In his interview, the Mossad chief said today: "We must remember that the nuclear problem might crop up in the future in Iraq and in other hostile nations. Thus, any superficial digging at this issue may cause Israel inestimable harm, which in the field of intelligence would be irreparable."

The interview then continued with a question about the raid. Q. Have damages already been caused? A. In my opinion, damage has already been caused, and I am referring to the field of intelligence.

Q. Have our sources of information been damaged? A. Yes, sources, and there is also a risk in everything related to cooperation with us.

Q. Are you requesting details, but could you tell me in general what sources of Israeli intelligence have already been damaged? A. The answer is positive. Intelligence has been damaged. It is not clear how much, but it is clear that this may cause harm to Israeli security in the nuclear field and in other issues.

American diplomatic efforts to defuse the tension between Israel and Syria are to continue, against the background of a renewed Israeli threat to destroy the five Syrian missiles.

SPADOLINI TO FORM COALITION

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, June 18

Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Republican leader, tonight formally accepted President Pertini's invitation to lead a new government.

He has still to draw up his list of ministers which is complicated, as he plans to form a four-party coalition. He is expected to do so next week after the last general election on Sunday. He also has to support for his programme.

Soviet exile for Jewish scientist

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, June 18

A leading Jewish activist was today sentenced to five years' internal exile after being found guilty of "aiding the Soviet state's war effort."

Mr Viktor Brailovsky, aged 45, a cyberneticist who edited an underground journal *Jews in the USSR*, was arrested last November and went on trial here yesterday.

His wife Irina, said his sentence was 21 months less than the full term because of his pre-trial detention. Under Soviet law a month in prison is equivalent to three months' hard labour.

Mr Brailovsky was refused an exit visa several years ago. He played a leading role in organizing unofficial seminars for other Jewish scientists, who were forbidden to emigrate but who had lost their jobs and needed to keep abreast of the latest developments in their field.

The last seminar in April last year drew 20 well-known scientists from Western Europe and America to Moscow, who gathered in Mr Brailovsky's two-room flat for the meetings.

Mr Brailovsky was detained a few days before the seminar began, but he was later released. He was re-arrested in November and accused of slandering the state, a charge carrying a maximum penalty of three years in a labour camp.

He denied the charge and conducted his own defence.

After the trial, closed to foreigners, his wife said she had feared her husband would be sent to a labour camp. The Russians appear to have chosen Mr Brailovsky's world-wide scientific contacts.

Professor Sinclair

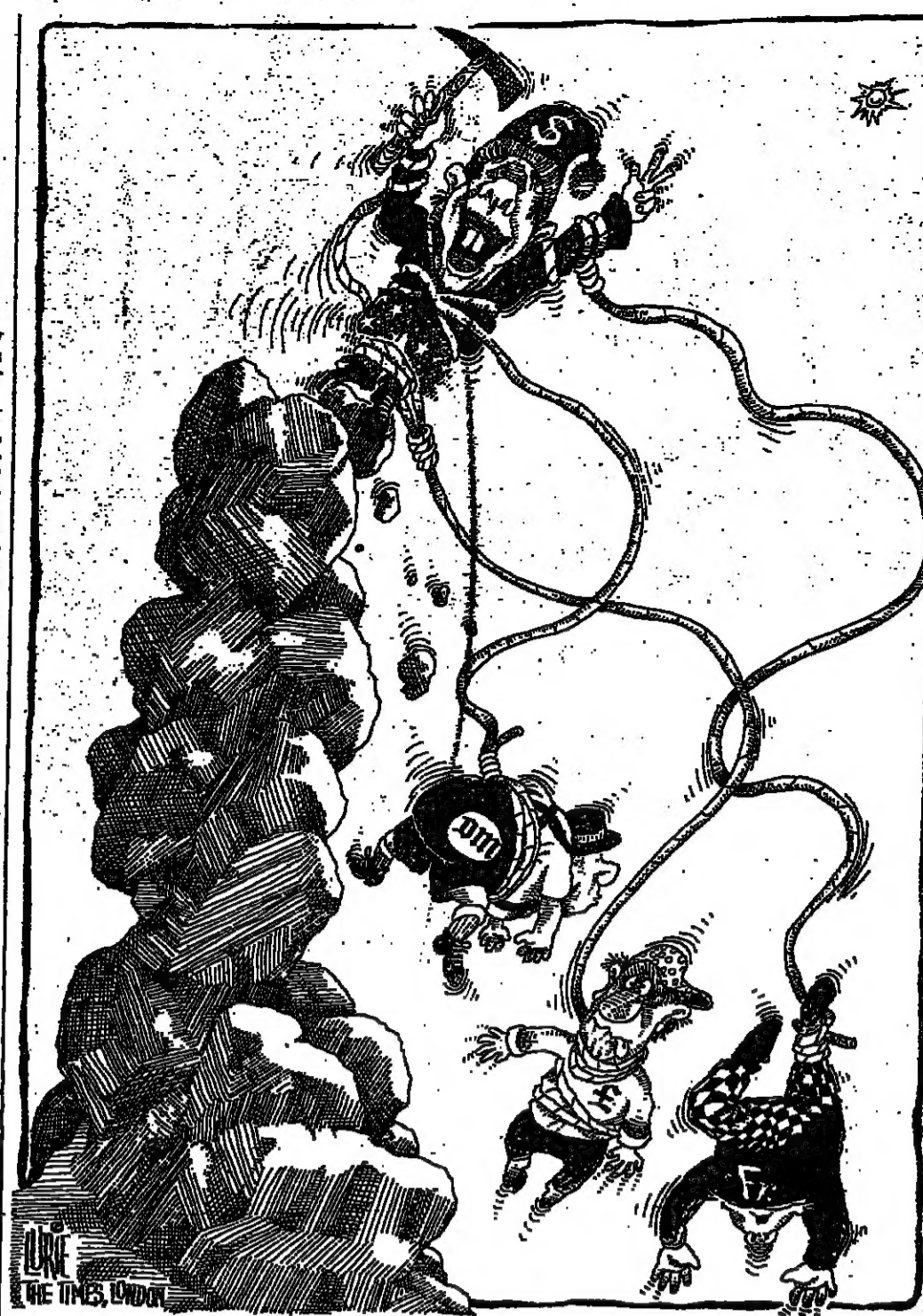
On April 10 we published an agency report that an address by Professor John Sinclair, of the Birmingham Faculty of English, to a conference on the study of English had not been understood by many in his audience.

We are asked to make it clear, and accept, taken from condensed notes issued afterwards and did not accurately reflect what he said.

Protest over SA envoy

A meeting of the Oxford University Conservative Association on Wednesday night, which was being addressed by Mr Marjale Steyn, the South African Ambassador, was stopped after about 40 demonstrators had tried to disrupt it.

The arm of a member of the association was broken in two places during scuffles.



Hopes of tax cuts boost Wall Street

From Frank Vogel

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, June 18.—American business will receive substantial tax relief in the 1982 fiscal year, which starts on October 1. This is now certain and the prospect of probably \$10,000m (25,000m) in company tax cuts has given support to share prices on Wall Street.

Business leaders had feared that the Democrats, who will have the majority in the House of Representatives, would strive to sabotage President Reagan's plan for greatly liberalized depreciation allowances, which would provide for differing types of plant and equipment to be depreciated over three, five and 10 years.

This plan in its first full year would produce roughly \$10,000m of company tax savings. The Democrats have now drafted a plan of their own that may be still more appealing to businessmen.

The tactics of the Democrats have surprised observers. In Washington, the close friends of business and the Democrats are expected to chop President Reagan's corporate tax cuts and add to them tax reductions for low-income individuals. Democrats on the House ways and means committee have made an outright bid for business support.

The Democrats proposed a system under which companies could write off the total cost of all new equipment in the year in which they make actual investments.

President Reagan made no suggestions to change the corporate income tax rate, but the Democrats have proposed that over the coming five years this rate should be gradually reduced from the present 46 per cent to 34 per cent to offset some of the cost of these cuts, the Democrats proposed the elimination of the 10 per cent business investment tax credit, which President Reagan plans to maintain.

The Republicans argue that the Democrats' new plan will not do as much to stimulate investment directly, as the White House plan will do.

The tax plans will be changed time and again in the legislative battles that lie ahead. But one thing is assured that there will definitely be business tax reductions.

A SECOND AHEAD

Washington, June 18.—June 30 will be one second longer this year to get in step with the Earth's rotation, the United States Commerce Department said.

It explained that the Earth's rotation, on which solar time is based, is not as regular as the atomic clocks used by scientists. So-called leap seconds were introduced in 1972 to keep atomic clocks from getting ahead or behind solar time.

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Hundreds flee to avoid Mozambique fighting

From Stephen Taylor, Chipinga, Zimbabwe, June 18

More than 1,000 refugees have crossed the border from Mozambique to Zimbabwe in the past two weeks to escape the war between Frelimo forces and South African-backed guerrillas. It was the largest influx of refugees from Mozambique this year.

Fleeing a wave of fighting, intimidation and retribution from both sides, the refugees picked their way through mines to reach sanctuary. They have now set up camps on a tea plantation 20 miles east of here.

The camps have been visited by Mozambique officials who are trying to persuade the refugees to return home. A few have gone back but many say they do not want to move until the war is over.

The fighting in Mozambique is concentrated mainly to the north of the Save river between the border and the coast, an area of strategic importance to Mozambique and also to Zimbabwe. Salisbury is attempting to develop hastily transported arms to bypass South Africa.

The Mozambique part of Beira is the most logical outlet for Zimbabwe goods, but traffic to the port is vulnerable to attacks by guerrillas of the Mozambique Resistance (MRM). The road from Umfolozi, in Zimbabwe, to Beira passes through territory in which the MRM is active and rail traffic between the towns has come under fire from the insurgents.

The MRM was started by a Portuguese businessman in the 1970s, when President Samora Machel came to power. It is now being led by a Zimbabwean, who has been active since the port of Pretoria.

The Mozambique authorities are extremely sensitive about the war and information about what is happening is scarce.

Handcuffed children freed

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, June 18

Four children, all aged below nine, were handcuffed to their beds or locked in cupboards when their parents went out, the police in the Bronx report.

Their mother, Mrs Anna Viale, aged 32, said they were too mischievous to be left alone without such precautions. "They would burn the house down," she said.

She and her husband Michael were charged yesterday with unlawful imprisonment and child abuse after their seven-year-old son escaped from handcuffs locking him to a bedpost. He freed his nine-year-old sister from a cupboard and they went to the police station.

Russia attacks 'Times' article on press freedom

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 18

The Soviet delegation to the Unesco conference on developing communication (IPDC) strongly criticized an article on the conference's work, which appeared in *The Times* today.

Mr A. Krasikov, deputy director general of Tass news agency, said that the Western press had been campaigning against the "lofty ideals of Unesco in trying to correct the imbalance of communications and establish the free flow of information."

Addressing the 35-nation council, he said that the article by Rosemary Richter (it was a feature article) stated that the IPDC meeting was Unesco's last chance to prove it did not intend to foster state interference in the reporting of news. In that article, the Soviet delegate said, Mrs Richter had surpassed herself.

Mr Krasikov also criticized the recent "declaration of Tullio" when representatives of the leading free world news organizations pledged themselves to fight Unesco's plans to set up its so-called press freedom. The Western international media, he said, already controlled two-thirds of the flow of news.

There was predictable back-

Collapse of Trudeau constitution hopes

From John Best, Ottawa, June 18

Mr Pierre Trudeau's dream of bringing home the Canadian Constitution from Britain by July 1, Canada's birthday, lay in ruins today.

The Supreme Court of Canada, which is considering provincial challenges to the legality of the Prime Minister's plan, will not make its decision until later in the summer or possibly the autumn.

This was confirmed yesterday when the court released a list of judgments it intends to pronounce next Tuesday. They did not include the constitutional case. The court breaks up two days later for its summer recess and normally would not meet again until October, although it could briefly reconvene earlier to make an important decision.

The delay appears to lead weight to persistent reports that the nine-man court is seriously divided over the validity of the federal Government's plan to ask Westminster to re-instate all control over the 1867 British North America Act, after attaching an amending formula and a Canadian Bill of Rights.

The tribunal heard the case, based on appeals from challenges against the package in three provincial courts, in late April and early May. Two of the lower court rulings upheld the federal position, and one rejected the position of eight provinces—out of 10 altogether in Canada—that oppose the federal package.

The Supreme Court had been expected to pronounce its decision early this month, in time for the package to get final parliamentary approval here—assuming the decision vindicated the Government—and perhaps in time for approval by the British Parliament by July 1.

When Mr Trudeau introduced the controversial measure last October, he set his sights on Canada Day, July 1, as the target date for having the Constitution, newly trimmed like a birthday cake, domiciled in Canada.

As last week, he was still expressing hope that the target would be met. Now that his timetable has been upset, with the possibility of less than clear-cut legal guidance when the court finally makes its decision, and with Parliament

itself scheduled to start a three-month summer recess in about two weeks, there is a telling what fate may hold for his plan.

□ Summit talks: Mr Trudeau will visit Paris and London next week for consultations on the seven-nation Western summit to be held here on July 20 and 21, his office announced today.

The Prime Minister is due to fly to Paris on Wednesday, and to lunch with President Mitterrand on Thursday. He tentatively plans to be in London on Friday for talks with Mrs Thatcher.

There is also a possibility of a visit to Bonn for discussions with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor. Mr Trudeau plans to return to Ottawa on Saturday.

Relief and anti-climax in Westminster

By Our Political Correspondent

News that the Supreme Court's judgment has been deferred came as a relief to the Government's business managers at Westminster. They had already warned the Canadian Government that the chances of endorsing a constitutional package in this session were slim.

For some MPs, both Labour and Conservative, who had been prepared to do battle on behalf of a dissenting provincial government, the news produced a sense of anti-climax.

Mr Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House, had become increasingly sceptical over recent weeks of endorsing the federal Government's proposals for completing the parliamentary process in Ottawa in time for the endorsing legislation to be squeezed into this session's time table, in London. Even a "overspill" in October to complete existing legislation, he has replied to Canadian inquiries: "Let's see if we do, in fact, get a request from Ottawa."

US-Greek talks broken off

From Mario Medina

Athens, June 18

The Greek Government announced officially today the unilateral suspension of negotiations on the future of the American military bases in Greece until the Greek elections in the autumn.

The decision, unanimously endorsed by the Cabinet in Athens today, was taken although the areas of disagreement between the American and Greek governments had been narrowed.

Mr Constantinos Mitsotakis, the Foreign Minister, told reporters that even if these differences had been resolved now, there would be no time for ratification unless Parliament returned in session until the end of July—which was impossible because of the summer recess.

The American Embassy, in a parallel statement, expressed disappointment at the suspension, but confirmed the reasons given and agreed with the prospect of a resumption of the negotiations after the elections.

What must certainly have encouraged this no-harsh-feelings one-sided suspension is the Greek declaration that until the negotiations are reopened by a post-election government, the existing status of the American military facilities in Greece shall remain in force.

But the Greek announcement indicated (and Mr Mitsotakis confirmed later) that, after the elections, the bases negotiations would be resumed from scratch.

Mr Mitsotakis said: "Since the present negotiation was inconclusive, it cannot be binding. Either side will be free not to abide by its previous views."

The whole episode is being played as a test key. The Greek Government evidently reached the conclusion that, at this juncture, whatever agreement it obtains on the unpopular issue of the American bases, it could hardly be held to account for a sell-out of national sovereignty to American imperialism.

By breaking off the negotiations, it can at least spare itself inevitable opposition cries of a sell-out of national sovereignty to American imperialism.

Leading article, page 13

Bomb attack on Nato site

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, June 18

The explosion occurred at the Nato building site at Wahren-dahl, a hamlet 17 miles south-west of Hinzow, the police said that it was caused by a "bomb-like object with a timing device" which apparently acted as a trigger.

The explosion was no reason why the council should not be a success.

If this happened, he said, then the IPDC could be a unifying force for dealing with the whole problem.

Mr Tomo Marjelanc, director of the Yugoslav national library and university, who has been very much involved in keeping the peace in this difficult meeting, said there was a general willingness to do away with inequalities. There should be freedom of information, he said, but "freedom was only possible between equal partners."

Euro MPs feel wronged

From David Wood

Strasbourg, June 18

Members of the European Parliament like nothing more than publicity, in common with other politicians, but in Strasbourg today they were saying that they had been terribly wronged and misunderstood.

An American television programme was unflattering about the MEPs. Then British newspapers said some MEPs had been sleeping in their parliamentary offices to profit from their expense allowances.

The CBS programmes of which MEPs saw a videotape, interviewed Mrs Janey Buchanan, who is an opponent of British membership of the EEC, chairman of the Scottish Labour Party, and an MEP. The commentary was biased, she said.

Viewings of the tape were arranged for MEPs in a studio at the Palais de l'Europe, and Mrs Buchanan became the most unpopular colleague of the moment.

Mrs Janey Buchanan: not so popular at the moment

The picture of the European Parliament as a gourmet's delight is really a reflection of how journalists, rather than MPs, live it up, and the image of the parliament suffers accordingly.

The anger or irritation now directed against Mrs Buchanan is understandable. In the end parliaments and politicians seeking public recognition and publicity must accept that some damaging stories will be mixed with the good. Today the MEPs were over-represented instead of being grateful for the notice taken of them in the United States and Britain. The worst fate is to be ignored altogether.

Next came the London newspaper accounts of how some MEPs sleep in their offices to save money on hotel rooms. Several foreign journalists refused to write the story because it was not serious politics, but Fleet Street was less fastidious. The Euro gravy-train syndrome emerged, as it often does.

There are some insomniac MEPs who work late and stay in their offices until the coffee bar opens for breakfast and then there are others who have found their way without a room in over-booked hotels—as journalists have.

Many veteran Westminster MPs and press gallery reporters have slept on settees and chairs in the House of Commons at the end of late sittings.

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US-Chinese spy base said to be watching Russia

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, June 18

The extent to which the United States and China share a common interest in combating what they perceive to be Soviet expansionism has been further emphasized by a report in *The New York Times* today which states that the two countries are jointly operating an electronic intelligence gathering station in China to monitor Soviet missile tests.

Officials today declined to confirm or deny the report, saying that it was not their practice to comment on intelligence matters. However, usually well-informed sources said that the report, which quoted senior American officials, bore all the hallmarks of being correct. A similar report was carried by the NBC television network.

According to *The New York Times*, the station was opened last year in a remote, mountainous region of the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region in western China, near the Soviet border. Two important Soviet missile testing bases are situated further to the west at Lenin, near the Aral Sea, and at Sary-Shagan, near Lake Balkhash.

The monitoring station was set up to fill a vacuum that had been created when similar listening posts in Iran were abandoned during the Iranian revolution. It was furnished with highly sophisticated American electronic equipment and has been described as one of the United States' most important and sensitive intelligence gathering operations.

The disclosure of shared American-Chinese intelligence activities came just after Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, ended a four-day visit to Peking. During his stay it was announced that the United States had agreed in principle to sell arms to China.

Taken together, these two developments indicate that the two countries intend to establish a far greater degree of co-operation in political and military spheres than had previously been expected. However, the fact that the existence of the shared monitoring station has become public knowledge could cause the Chinese some embarrassment.

There are powerful factions within the Chinese leadership which are opposed to China becoming too closely allied to the United States. In fact, China originally rejected an American proposal made in 1978 to establish a listening post there for that very reason.

Immediately after Mr. Haig's visit, China publicly called for new talks with the Soviet Union to settle the volatile Sino-Soviet border dispute. This being deliberately timed so as to inform Washington that China is not prepared to enter into a fully-fledged anti-Soviet alliance at this stage, particularly until the question of American arms supplies to Taiwan is settled.

According to *The New York Times* report the site of the monitoring station in China is ideal because it allows the tracking of Soviet missile tests from the point of launching, through their flight over Siberia, to the dispersion of warheads. The monitoring permits the United States to find out whether new missiles are being developed, which is a crucial factor in future arms limitation talks.



Agca trial decision next week

From Peter Nichols, Rome, June 18

Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who is accused of having shot the Pope on May 13 in St. Peter's Square, will know in a week whether he will be sent for trial without further investigation. The decision rests with the public prosecutor's office and must be made by June 23. The alternatives are for the prosecutor to recommend a full inquiry by an investigating judge or to decide that the case is sufficiently clear for hearings to begin in open court.

Given the fact that the case is a clear one as far as Mr. Agca himself is concerned, the prosecutor will almost certainly adopt what is known as summary procedure which means dispensing with a further judicial investigation before the hearings.

This will save time. The work of an investigating judge entails the long and secret cross-examination of the accused man and the collection of evidence.

Against Mr. Agca is attempted assassination of a head of state which carries a life sentence. In the case of Mr. Agca, the difficulties are not so much in proving who carried out the attempted assassination as in throwing light on the background to the act, his mental processes, his supporters and accomplices, if any.

The court has appointed Signor Pietro Davide for defence. Signor D'Ovidio said tonight that once the public prosecutor would announce his decision to follow the summary procedure, the presiding judge of the court of assize will give the date for the hearings. The judge takes into account the requirements of the defence in preparing their case. The minimum allowed is three weeks which would theoretically bring the opening of hearings to mid-July. But Signor D'Ovidio is a busy lawyer and there would be no surprise if the court decided to open hearings in the autumn. Mr. Agca is held in the maximum security section of Rome's Rebibbia prison.

11 are jailed for Mao death plot

From David Bonavia, Peking, July 18

Two former senior Air Force officers and nine other people have been given sentences of up to 15 years' imprisonment for their alleged part in a plot to kill the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The English-language *China Daily* reported this today, naming the main defendant as Lin Wei, former director of the Air Force combat headquarters, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail. Li Weixin, former head of the administration department of "an Air Force unit", was given 15 years.

Both men were named as members of the clique surrounding the late Marshal Lin Biao, who was allegedly killed in 1971 while trying to flee from China after attempting to assassinate Mao and seize power.

Four of the 11 accused were released when the sentences were announced because they had already exceeded their terms in detention. It is assumed they were arrested in 1971 together with other senior Air Force officers and commanders of the Army and Navy implicated in the plot.

Last January Mr. Wu Faxian, former Air Force commander, was jailed for 17 years. Mr. Jiang Tongjiao, another senior Air Force officer, was then sentenced to 18 years. Both men were granted remission for time served.

Evidence given at the trial of the so-called Lin Biao clique and the Gang of Four, in which the chief defendant was Jiang Qing, Mao's widow, suggested that the leftist conspirators used the Air Force as an important instrument of their activity.

Lin and his family and some political followers were said to have been killed when a British-built Trident aircraft belonging to the Chinese Air Force crashed in the Mongolian People's Republic. The late sentences were said to be a follow-up to the big trial of six months ago.



Czeslaw Milos, the Polish poet and Nobel prize winner, visiting a shipyard in Gdansk yesterday. He was shown lines from his poem on a monument marking the deaths of workers during clashes with police and troops in 1970. Mr. Milos returned to Poland

Polish journalists warn the party

From Desza Trevisan, Warsaw, June 18

Polish journalists have protested against attacks made on their profession by Communist Party hardliners at the recent Central Committee meeting.

In a resolution, published after a meeting of their association board, they said it was not the truth that was endangering socialism but the distortion of it; and not public criticism but the attempt to stifle it.

Before the Central Committee met, the Soviet Union had sent a letter containing sweeping criticism of the Polish media. The Russians warned Warsaw that control of impor-

tant issues was being taken out of party hands.

This encouraged the Polish party hardliners who argued in the Central Committee that the party without the control of the press was like an army without guns. The committee subsequently adopted a resolution declaring that there could be no room for alien ideas in the press and indicating that action would follow, including changes of staff in editorial offices.

One result was the resignation of Mr. Jozef Kasa, who until recently, was in charge of media in the Central Commit-

tee and his replacement by Mr. Leslaw Tokarski, until recently the editor of the weekly *Przekazanie*.

Since then there have been signs that the press, if not stifled, is being restrained.

In their resolution, the journalists now say that differences of opinion which do exist will not be made to disappear by attempts to conceal them.

Foreign Minister: Mr. Jozef Cyrankiewicz, the Polish Foreign Minister, flew into London yesterday for two days of talks with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

WEU tones down its stand over Poland but backs Pakistan

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 18

The Western European Union (WEU) today significantly toned down the stand its council is to take on Poland, after pressure from West German and Dutch liberal groups, backed by British Socialists and Italian Communists.

Sir Frederick Bennett, Conservative MP for Torbay, who chaired the committee which drew up the report on developments in Poland, said he voted with pride against its recommendation diluting it had been carried.

In its amended form, he said, it would profoundly disappoint the many Poles who were looking for support, and would encourage the Soviet Union to believe that if it indulged in sabre rattling, people would climb down. In voting against the altered recommendation, the Poles would at least know that they still had some staunch friends left in Europe.

The original recommendations had been accepted by the committee in April. The assembly refused to ratify them and pre-

ferred the amended version. This means that two clauses have been dropped which call for member-states to draw up possible joint retaliatory measures which could be taken against the Soviet Union in the event of an invasion of Poland.

The first clause wanted these actions put jointly before the Council of Europe "to associate all free European states with whatever measures it may take." The second clause would have asked member-states of force, within the EEC, "The diplomatic, economic, financial and commercial measures... which should necessarily include an embargo on the transfer of advanced technology to the Soviet Union."

The Liberal group said it was essential for the West not to be provocative and so give the Soviet Union a chance to interfere.

The strongest part of the recommendation which remains calls on the WEU Council to "announce without delay its principles which will guide its

reactions in the event of Soviet intervention in Poland, which would be a flagrant violation of the Helsinki agreements and call in question their content."

The Assembly was prepared to take a tougher line when it came to consider the report on European security in the Gulf area. Sir Frederic, just back from a tour of Pakistan and the Gulf, said during a briefing that if Pakistan was not helped to re-arm, it would be forced to fall completely under Soviet influence.

He said the Soviet Union had formed a new southern command embracing Afghanistan, which indicated there was every intention of making the occupation of the country permanent. This was part of a greater design to move into the Gulf area.

The Assembly agreed to carry the report on security in the Gulf, including an agreement to recommend assistance to the Afghan resistance movement, and to furnish Pakistan with substantial economic aid.

Kissinger loses election

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 18

Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, has been voted off the board of directors of the Council on Foreign Relations.

One of those who has edged him out is Mr. Cyrus Vance, who succeeded him at the State Department when President Carter took office in 1977.

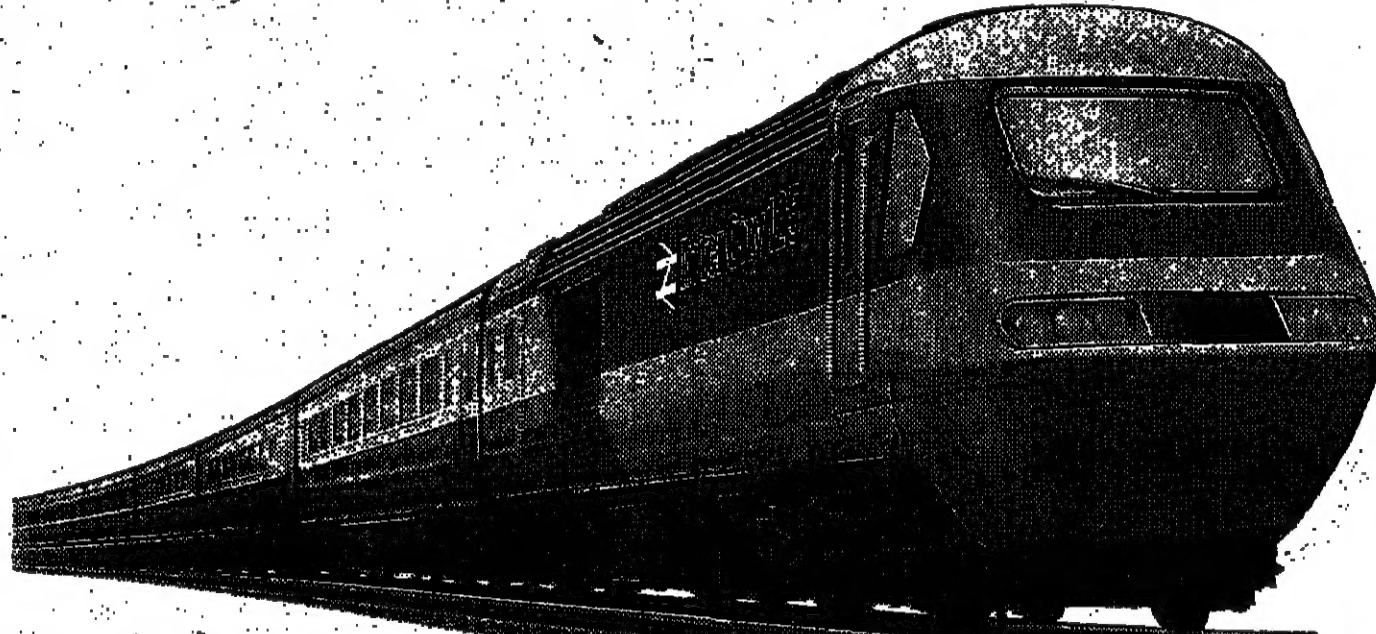
Dr Kissinger was one of seven former council members and two newcomers' up for election to the eight places on the board. Each year a third of the 24-man board, come up for reelection.

The two new candidates were Mr. Vance and Mr. Walter Wriston, a banker. Both were elected.

NAVY SEIZES MARIJUANA

The Royal Navy frigate *Antelope* yesterday seized 60,000lb of marijuana worth an estimated £30m from a Panamanian cargo ship 25 miles off the British colony of Belize.

Sailors are still searching the ship, the *Odca*, for a further 20,000lb of the drug believed to be on board. The captain and the ship's first mate have been arrested.



In theory, a monopoly has no competition...

It's true that British Rail operates the only national railway system in the country. By definition, that should make us a monopoly.

By implication, we should therefore enjoy a cosy existence, sheltered from competition, insensitive to customers' needs, complacent and unadventurous.

Nothing could be further from the truth. COMPETITION IN EVERY SECTOR

On the passenger side intense competition comes from over 19 million private and company cars owned in this country. Owners who use their cars on business benefit from tax relief. And company car owners (of which Britain has more than anywhere else in Europe) usually have only to find marginal costs, like petrol, out of their own pockets. Not surprisingly, the incentive to use the car is considerable.

Air services provide vigorous competition for British Rail's Inter-City trains.

With the passing of the 1980 Transport Act, long-distance coaches now compete for our business much more actively than before.

In the freight sector, competition is similarly intense. We don't benefit, as road hauliers do, from the UK licensing laws—for example, there is no "quantity" licensing, as in Germany and France, to limit the amount of freight to travel by road. What's more, only now is taxation of

heavy goods vehicles being increased to make the competitive framework fairer.

FINANCIAL BURDENS—WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY?

We have a statutory obligation to run services which are socially necessary but financially unviable. This is known as the Public Service Obligation—the basis of the annual "contract" between the Government and British Rail. In real terms this has not increased since 1975—leaving Britain with the least supported major railway in Europe.

If British Rail does not use up the whole of the contract payment in any year the residue cannot be "credited" to the next year.

Monopolies generally enjoy more financial flexibility—and muscle—than other business. But not British Rail. Instead British Rail is restricted by the rules and conventions which apply throughout the UK public sector where, for example, each industry has its External Financing Limit. This represents the maximum sum in terms of "outside finance" that any public sector industry can call on each year. If the economic recession makes it impossible for British Rail to keep within its External Financing Limit, the excess will be deducted from the next year's Limit.

THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS

The direct consequence of financial inflexi-

bility is on investment. British Rail's investment per train/Km is lower than that of any other major railway in Western Europe. The railway network needs 30 per cent extra investment just to maintain the present standard of service.

If Britain wants a worthwhile railway system in future, people will have to appreciate the importance of railways, as they have done in other countries.

Investment in the railways is a sound and sensible use of money. This so-called monopoly can behave adventurously, can stand up to competition and can justify its role in the economy.

Do not forget that in 1979 British Rail's recorded passenger miles were actually higher than in 1961, when the rail network was thirty per cent larger and there were only half as many cars on the road.

This is one of a series of advertisements designed to increase public awareness of the position of the railways in the national transport system and also in the life of the community as a whole. Whilst the facts and figures contained in these advertisements are known and appreciated by those directly concerned in shaping the future, an industry as much in the limelight as ours has a duty to address itself to a wider audience, which needs to be well informed if it is to play its part in helping to form public opinion.

Adulterated oil identified as cause of Spanish deaths

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, June 18

Denatured rapeseed oil is the principal toxic element in cooking oil which poisoned thousands in an outbreak of what was initially identified as atypical pneumonia, according to a report of the Spanish public health authorities published here today.

Denatured oil, originally intended for industrial use, is produced by the addition of certain chemicals.

With 34 people dead since the illness was first detected near Madrid early last month, newspapers today published a statement from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security, warning the public of "the great risk involved in the consumption or utilization of unlabelled oil sold on the streets or by door-to-door salesmen".

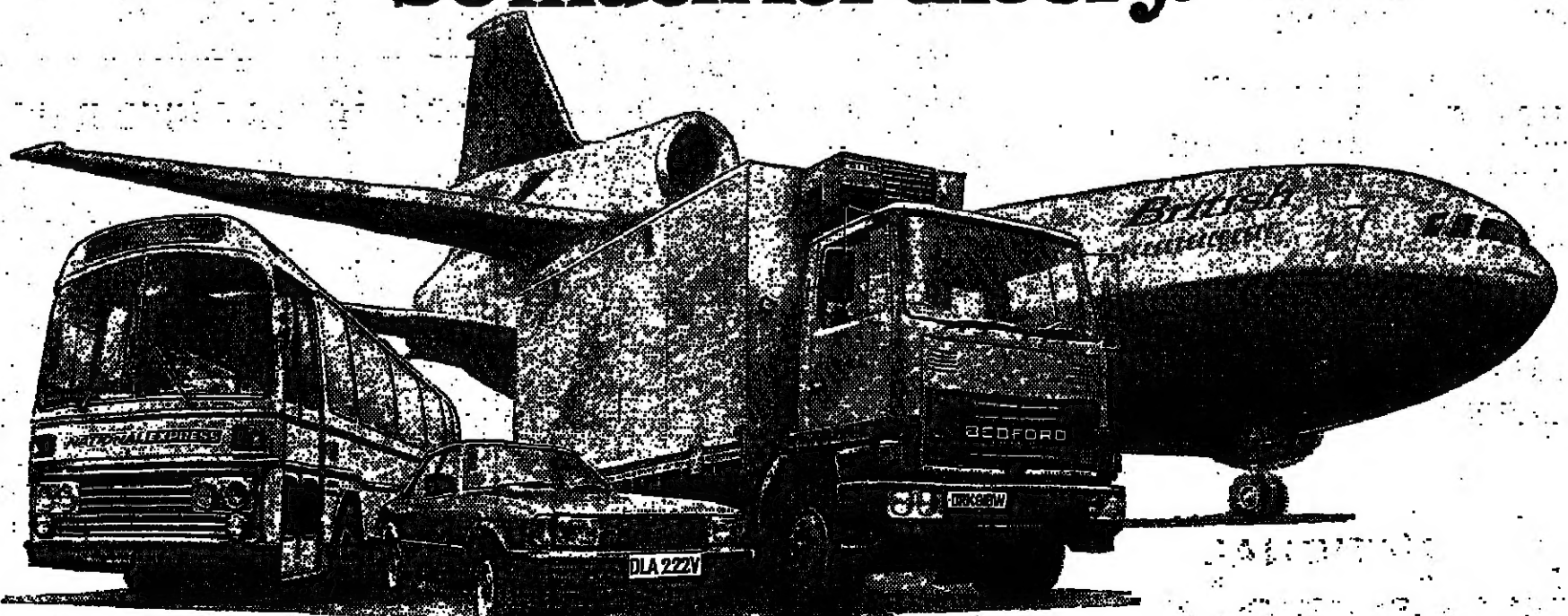
The statement added that "the findings of the National Centre of Nutrition and Food (NCFN) indicate that a shipment of rapeseed oil, presumably imported and destined for industrial use, was used in a

mixture of oil sold illegally. Certain toxic products of a chemical nature are added to oil intended for such usage which make it unfit for human consumption".

The official statement emphasized "the clear and definite warning that it is absolutely necessary to refrain from consuming such oil", and it appealed to the population to cooperate with the authorities by reporting the unauthorized sale of unlabelled oil.

Laboratory tests of cooking oil which had been used by those who became ill showed that it looked, smelled and tasted like oil, but in fact, was a mixture of olive oil, rapeseed oil containing aniline as a denaturing agent, and other ingredients.

Most of the poisonous oil is believed to have been distributed from a warehouse on the outskirts of Madrid. Stocks have been confiscated at several points in the northern half of the country.



This is the age of the train ➡

Suzuki talks raise hope of cuts in EEC trade deficit

From Michael Hurnsby, Brussels, June 18

Tension over trade issues between Japan and the EEC has been eased by the visit here of Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, and his retinue of ministers and officials.

At a press conference today, both Mr. Gaston Thorn, the president of the European Commission, and Sir Roy Denman, its director-general for external relations, spoke of a new mood in EEC-Japanese relations and of "new possibilities" for reducing the Community's expanding trade deficit with the Japanese.

At the same time, they both cautioned against an over-optimistic assessment, and emphasized that the assurances received from the Japanese would have to be tested by the results.

"I cannot say in all honesty that we have a promise that action will be taken to reduce the trade deficit," Mr. Thorn said, "but I think (the Japanese) are now aware of the need for moderation. It cannot be in their interest to kill off their best customer."

The EEC's negotiators attach most importance to the promise by Mr. Rokuseke Tanaka, Japan's Minister for Inter-

national Trade and Industry, that his Government will for the first time formally ask private industry to increase imports of European manufactured goods.

Given the peculiarly close relationship between the Japanese Government and big business, and the tradition of "administrative guidance" of industry, the pledge is seen as carrying much more weight than it would in any other non-communist country.

The abnormally low percentage of manufactured goods in Japan's total imports—22 per cent last year compared with 44 per cent in the case of the EEC—has long been a main target of Western criticism of Japanese trade policy.

Hitherto, the Japanese have dismissed such complaints, arguing that the Japanese market is open to foreign competition, and that the fault is on the side of European businessmen who have failed to devote the same time and trouble to searching out the opportunities as their Japanese counterparts have in Europe.

The EEC has also been encouraged by Mr. Tanaka's pledge to start reducing the very high tariffs remaining on certain

products, such as foodstuffs, which are of particular interest to the Community's exporters. Finally, there is satisfaction over the statement by the Japanese that they do not expect their car exports to the EEC this year to be greatly different from the 1980 level, and that they will be prepared to discuss in the autumn further restraint in 1982.

Although the Japanese apparently now accept in principle that the question of car exports should be discussed with the EEC as a whole, Mr. Thorn admitted that there was little chance in this approach unless EEC member-states put their own house in order.

This was a reference to the very strict national controls on imports of Japanese cars imposed by France and Italy. Since a global restraint agreement between the EEC and Japan could not be expected to offer these countries the same degree of protection, they would be unlikely to find it acceptable.

However, among the scepticism which remains about Japanese intentions, Mr. Suzuki's tour does seem to have served its main purpose of improving the atmosphere for the world economic summit in Ottawa.



Miss Jane Fonda, the actress, and Mr. Tom Hayden, her husband (right), who were refused entry into South Africa, in Lesotho yesterday with Mr. Joseph Kotsakos, Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet.

FOOT AND MOUTH VACCINE

Washington, June 18.—Mr. John Block, the Agriculture Secretary, today announced the production of a vaccine against foot and mouth disease which, he said, could increase the world's meat supply and save billions of dollars.

Foot and mouth is a highly contagious sickness of cattle, swine and other animals, for which there is no known cure. Mr. Block said the new vaccine was produced through recombinant DNA technology, commonly called gene-splicing, under an agreement between the Agriculture Department and the Genentech Company.

The vaccine was produced using a form of genetic engineering whereby a single gene, or small series of genes, from one organism are inserted into another organism.

"The vaccine produced by the new recombinant DNA technology is safe and effective. It cannot produce the disease in a vaccinated animal because only a segment of the virus is used, not the whole virus," Mr. Block said. The virus produced could be stored without refrigeration, he added.

Black journalist detained by S African police

Johannesburg, June 18.—South African security police have arrested the news editor of the black newspaper *The Sowetan*, a police spokesman said today.

He said Mr. Thami Mazwai was detained last night in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg, and was being held under security legislation. People detained under the security laws can be held without charge for at least 14 days.

The *Sowetan* became the main voice of South African blacks last February after its predecessor, *The Post*, was forced to close.

Mr. Mazwai's arrest came as blacks throughout the country marked the fifth anniversary of the Soweto riots. The *Sowetan* gave extensive coverage to police actions during township unrest on Tuesday.

The newspaper, originally a weekly with a small circulation, became a daily in February. This followed a two-month strike at *The Post* and a government warning that it would be banned if it resumed publication.

Mr. Kobie Coetzee, the Justice Minister, said *The Post* had become a vehicle for left-wing subversion.

The authorities also served a five-year banning order on a white student leader who invited Jane Fonda, the actress, to speak at the University of the Witwatersrand here.

Colonel Hendrie Smith, Chief of the Security Police for the Johannesburg area, said his men served the order on Mr. Samuël Adelman, president of the Students' Representative Council.

The order means that Mr. Adelman, who is 25, may not

meet more than one person at a time, may not contribute to any publication, and may not be quoted in the South African press.

Mr. Muldoon talks: Commonwealth anger at New Zealand for allowing a South African rugby tour next month will be the subject of talks in London today and tomorrow between Mr. Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Thatcher (the Press Association reports).

Mr. Muldoon is in London as part of a European tour taking in France, West Germany and Italy. His talks with British ministers were arranged before Commonwealth governments started to move against New Zealand over the Springbok tour.

Mr. Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will call on Mr. Muldoon tomorrow, has been instructed to begin consultations on a new venue for the Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting, due to be held in New Zealand in September.

This is a significant event for New Zealand. Mr. Muldoon has been Finance Minister as well as Prime Minister, and knows the Commonwealth leaders. He is due to preside at the gathering.

A week ago high commissioners in London expressed concern about the rugby tour. They agreed to postpone a final decision on the meeting until early July. In the meantime the Nigerian Government has asked the Commonwealth Secretariat to begin considering a alternative venue.

Mr. Muldoon has argued that the South African does not approve of the tour, and he has publicly asked that it should not take place.

Why Japan has few alcoholics

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, June 18

A team of scientists have discovered why millions of Japanese stagger home drunk every night but, unlike the heavy drinkers in the West, rarely become alcoholics.

The study also explains why most Japanese turn red as a tomato on the mere whiff of liquor, while others will pass out in a drunken stupor after downing a few glasses of beer.

The scientists, led by Assistant Professor Kazuo Harada, of Teikyo University, claim the Japanese make the world's worst drunkards but, a difference in their body chemistry prevents them from becoming alcoholics.

As a result millions of Japanese are capable of turning up smartly for work every morning after what they would describe as a heavy night of drinking.

Professor Harada says the lack of an extra enzyme prevents more than 50 per cent of Japanese drinkers who were investigated from absorbing copious amounts of alcohol.

His contention is supported by Professor Takemitsu Isumi, of Tokyo University, and a team of doctors who have studied the body chemistry of 100 Japanese alcoholics. In every case the alcoholics possessed two enzymes.

Compared to the United States and Europe there are relatively few alcoholics in Japan. But we have many more drunks here. No morals are involved. It is simply because the difference in body chemistry makes the average Japanese sensitive to liquor, according to Professor Isumi.

The resolution, expressing Parliament's strong desire that the penalty should be abolished throughout the Community was carried here tonight by 143 votes to 30, with 22 abstentions. Fewer than half the total of 434 members voted.

Among the 30 members who voted to retain the status quo were the Rev Ian Paisley (Northern Ireland, Ind) and four British Conservatives—Mr John Marshall (London, North), (Cambridge), Mr Edward Kellert-Bowman (Lancashire, East) and Mr Elaine Kellert-Bowman (Cumbria). There were protests when Mrs Kellert-Bowman, explaining her vote, said that crimes were committed in the name of the European Parliament to safeguard them.

The resolution, from Parliament's legal affairs committee, also urged member states to press for an amendment to the Convention on Human Rights.

There are weaknesses in its proposed management structure and filing systems for the new centre. The panel also expresses concern that Edinburgh is "far off from most member countries" of the agency.

The large differences between the salaries of the well-paid European scientists who would work there and local staff is also considered a drawback. The proposed solution is to have no Edinburgh staff working within the coordinating centre is criticized as being "barely workable as it creates an artificial barrier between agency staff and local staff with a resultant lack of operational flexibility."

Instead, the proposal of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is considered stronger because of its scientific environment, its experienced staff, filing and documentation facilities and its access to ground-based observatories.

Although the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh is considered a strong candidate because of the scientific expertise available there, its equipment is its observatory facilities and its Starlink computer system which allows it to exchange photographic images of stars with other British observatories, the panel has found several faults.

Four Grapo guerrillas shot by Civil Guard

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, June 18

The paramilitary Civil Guard shot dead four suspected terrorists in two incidents near Barcelona during a search for a wounded terrorist on the run, a police communiqué said here today.

The deaths of two of the suspects—a man and a woman—occurred inside a Civil Guard police station in the tiny Catalan community of Farga de Bebie, where they had been taken for questioning. According to the Civil Guard, both of them pulled out pistols, which were hidden in their clothing, and began shooting.

One policeman was wounded, and another returned the fire, killing the couple. They were subsequently identified by police as members of the left-wing extremist organization Grapo (First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group).

Several hours later, a Civil Guard patrol, continuing the search for a Grapo member who was wounded in a Barcelona gun fight with police on Tuesday but got away, came across a tent pitched in a wooded area in the same community. As they approached, the occupants of the tent opened fire on them.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, two men who were inside the tent were killed. Police identified them as Roberto Llofriu, aged 32, a Grapo activist who was hurt in a Barcelona gun battle, and Antonio Cabezas, aged 29.

The woman fatally shot at the police station was identified as Maria Dolores Castro, aged 24, a constant companion of Roberto Llofriu. The man who died with her was Bimo Gabriel Lopez, aged 23. All four, police said, were members of Grapo, wanted in connection with investigations into various armed robberies and assassinations.

The Civil Guard's action significantly reduced the danger posed by Grapo, since police claimed last month that fewer than 10 members of the extremist organization were still at large.

Grapo, an organization with leftist ideology but whose activities sometimes appear to favour the extreme right, takes its name from the date of its first action, the simultaneous killing of four policemen in different parts of Madrid on the day of General Franco's last public appearance on October 1, 1973, in revenge for the execution of five terrorists.

Khalkhali welcomed in Moscow

From Michael Binyon Moscow, June 18

Aravotzab Molesadeg Khalkhali, the Iranian leader notorious for his harsh sentences he has ordered, has arrived in the Soviet Union at the head of an Iranian religious delegation.

He has been invited by the Muslim Board of Transcaucasia, one of four religious boards responsible for the administration of Islam in the Soviet Union. The board, based in Baku, represents Muslims in Azerbaijan, a Soviet republic bordering Iran where the Muslims, as in Iran, are predominantly Shi'a.

Khalkhali, who caused widespread revulsion in the West when he used a pen-knife to cut the charred limbs of American commandos killed in the abortive rescue attempt of the American hostages last year, was given a cordial welcome in Moscow yesterday by the Council for Religious Affairs, the government body controlling religious activities in the Soviet Union.

Today he flew to Tashkent, the seat of the largest and most influential Muslim board in the Soviet Union.

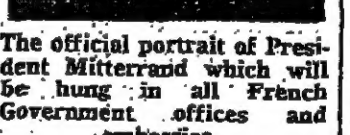
His visit comes at a time when Soviet relations with Iran are improving. The Russians have deliberately turned a blind eye to the strong anti-communist rhetoric of the Muslim fundamentalists, and have tilted towards Iran in the conflict with Iraq.

Although the Russians have made no comment on the political eclipse of President Bani-Sadr, Moscow is probably glad that what it sees as the Western element in the Iranian leadership has been defeated.

The Russians hope that the Tudeh Party, the Iranian Communists, will flourish underground if Muslim extremists win control in Iran.

By coincidence, Mr. Taha Ramadani, a first Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, also arrived here yesterday for talks which will centre on the Gulf war and Iraq's increasingly distant relations with Moscow.

Iraq, linked to Moscow by a treaty of friendship, has drawn away from Soviet influence especially after Moscow's refusal to supply arms at the outbreak of the war with Iran, a refusal strongly criticized last year by Mr. Ramadani.



The official portrait of President Mitterrand which will be hung in all French Government offices and embassies.

Death penalty rejected

From Bernard Withers Strasbourg, June 18

The European Parliament has joined other international bodies in calling for the abolition of the death penalty in all its member states. Only three of the 10 EEC states—Denmark, West Germany and Luxembourg—have abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

The resolution, expressing Parliament's strong desire that the penalty should be abolished throughout the Community was carried here tonight by 143 votes to 30, with 22 abstentions. Fewer than half the total of 434 members voted.

Among the 30 members who voted to retain the status quo were the Rev Ian Paisley (Northern Ireland, Ind) and four British Conservatives—Mr John Marshall (London, North), (Cambridge), Mr Edward Kellert-Bowman (Lancashire, East) and Mr Elaine Kellert-Bowman (Cumbria). There were protests when Mrs Kellert-Bowman, explaining her vote, said that crimes were committed in the name of the European Parliament to safeguard them.

The resolution, from Parliament's legal affairs committee, also urged member states to press for an amendment to the Convention on Human Rights.

There are weaknesses in its proposed management structure and filing systems for the new centre. The panel also expresses concern that Edinburgh is "far off from most member countries" of the agency.

The large differences between the salaries of the well-paid European scientists who would work there and local staff is also considered a drawback. The proposed solution is to have no Edinburgh staff working within the coordinating centre is criticized as being "barely workable as it creates an artificial barrier between agency staff and local staff with a resultant lack of operational flexibility."

Instead, the proposal of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is considered stronger because of its scientific environment, its experienced staff, filing and documentation facilities and its access to ground-based observatories.

Although the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh is considered a strong candidate because of the scientific expertise available there, its equipment is its observatory facilities and its Starlink computer system which allows it to exchange photographic images of stars with other British observatories, the panel has found several faults.

Abnormal twin killed in womb

From Maria Schneck of the New York Times

New York, June 18.—Doctors at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, said today that they had punctured the heart of an abnormal foetus to destroy it in the womb while leaving its normal twin to survive and be born more than four months later as a healthy baby.

The procedure, done last year, was said to be the first successful surgery of its kind in the United States and the second in the world. The objective, doctors said at a press conference, was to give a childless 40-year-old woman with fertility problems a chance to have a normal baby. She had decided to have both foetuses aborted if there was no way to save the normal one alone, the doctors said.

The abnormal foetus was killed by withdrawing about half its blood through a needle inserted in its heart, which then stopped beating.

The operation was described as "extremely difficult. The needle had to hit a moving target less than an inch across, which was accomplished at the second attempt. There was the risk of killing both foetuses, damaging the abnormal one without killing it, or killing the normal one."

A report in the June 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* said the mother desperately wanted to have the normal child but could not face the risk of carrying an abnormal child for the rest of her life. The report's authors were Dr. Thomas Kerer, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Dr. Usha Chikara.

The decision on the procedure was left to the parents after advice by physicians. The medical school, aware of the ethical and possibly legal implications of the case, insisted that the woman went to the State Supreme Court in New York for a ruling on the procedure for the benefit of the normal foetus. The report said the decision to go to court was made out of an abundance of caution. It was the mother's opinion, the doctors said, that the presence of an abnormal twin would be an unhealthy experience for the normal one.

Abortions are commonly done by infusing a solution into the foetus which dies and is expelled from the womb. The objective in this case was to avoid an abortion, and it was impossible to abort only one foetus with the salt solution.

The surviving infant is now more than seven months old and was described as normal and healthy. Doctors said the extra chromosome characteristic of Down's syndrome, which was seen mentally retarded, was possibly linked with serious physical defects.

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NIGERIAN EDITOR ARRESTED

From Our Correspondent Lagos, June 18

The editor of the *New Nigerian*, one of Nigeria's more highly regarded newspapers, was arrested in his office yesterday. The two plainclothes policemen who arrested Malam Ibrahim Sulaiman gave no reason for doing so.

The paper claims that the arrest was made on the orders of the Chief Justice of Plateau state. The paper says that the Chief Justice took offence at an article in the May 28 issue and summoned both the paper's editor and the author of the article to apologize to the court.

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Britain may lose new telescope link

By Robin McKie, Times Higher Education Correspondent

Britain's proposal that it should house a new international astronomical centre at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh where scientists would coordinate European research on the proposed space telescope, project has been narrowly rejected by a European Space Agency committee.

Instead, its scientific evaluation panel proposes that the telescope's European Coordinating Facility should be sited in the headquarters of the European Southern Observatory in Garching, near Munich.

The recommendation is outlined in agenda papers for next week's meeting of the Space Agency when a final decision is to be made on the site.

The choice will represent an important scientific opportunity for the chosen institute. It will be responsible for analysing, storing and disseminating data from the telescope, an orbiting 24 metre American-European observatory, scheduled for

launch by the space shuttle in 1984, and which will be able to see 10 times further into the universe than the most powerful telescopes at present.

Four proposals were put forward for the European centre. The other two were from the Institute of Space Astrophysics in Frascati, near Rome, and a joint bid from the Institut d'Astrophysique in

Extending sentence without notice is unauthorized

R v Brighton Magistrates' Court ex parte Hamilton
R v Marylebone Magistrates' Court ex parte Forrest

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Salmon, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill

The House of Lords settled a point of constitutional importance involving natural justice when they held that a magistrates' court was not authorized by section 44(6) of the Criminal Justice Act, 1967, to order an additional period of imprisonment and issue a warrant of commitment against an offender serving a sentence for default of payment of sums ordered to be paid, without giving prior notice to the offender and giving him an opportunity to be heard personally or by an advocate or in writing.

In so deciding they overruled three decisions of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court to the contrary effect.

Their Lordships allowed two appeals by convicted persons from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, and, having answered certified questions of law, ordered that the cases be remitted to the respective Divisional Courts with a direction to quash orders and warrants of commitment by justices which were wrong in law.

In the first appeal Peter Charles Forrest, of Hornby Road, Lower Beveden, Brighton, had applied to the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Ormrod and Mr Justice Lloyd) for an order of certiorari to quash an order by Brighton Magistrates' Court on April 4 issuing a warrant for his imprisonment for 144 days when he was in prison for 12 months.

Questions

His ground was that the justices had acted in law in committing him to prison without giving him any notice or warning of the hearing.

In the second appeal, Michael Hamilton, detained in HM Prison, Blandford, appealed from the Divisional Court (the Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Comyns) on July 14, 1980, refusing his motion for an order of certiorari to quash an order by Marylebone Justices on the ground that it was made in breach of the rules of natural justice.

In the Hamilton case the court certified as a point of law of general importance the question whether section 44(6) of the Criminal Justice Act, 1967, authorized a magistrates' court to issue a warrant of commitment against an offender in circumstances falling within paragraphs (a) or (b) of that subsection without giving prior notice to the offender of its intention so to do.

In the Forrest case the court certified two questions: "(1) Whether a magistrates' court may lawfully issue a warrant of commitment against an offender under section 44(6) of the 1967 Act for a default in payment of a sum of money adjudged to be paid by a conviction, without giving notice to the defendant before issuing the warrant and an opportunity to make representations to the court either personally or by an advocate.

(2) Whether a magistrates' court may lawfully impose a term of imprisonment on a defendant under section 108 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, which is consecutive to other terms of imprisonment imposed on a previous occasion by a magistrates' court and which will have the effect of imposing an aggregate term of imprisonment exceeding 12 months?"

Common

Section 44(6) provides: "After the occasion of an offender's conviction by a magistrates' court, the court shall not, unless—(a) the court has previously fixed a term of imprisonment under section 65(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, which is to be served by the offender in the event of a default in paying a sum adjudged to be paid by the conviction; or (b) the offender is serving a term of imprisonment or detention in a detention centre; issue a warrant of commitment for a default in paying the sum or fix such a term except at a hearing at which the offender is present."

Mr Nicholas Nardacchia for the appellants, Forrest, Mr Gordon Bennett for the appellant Hamilton, Mr David Cocks as amicus curiae on behalf of HM Attorney General.

LORD FRASER said that the appeals, heard together, raised two questions, one of which

was common to both, and the other of which arose only in the case of Forrest. He would consider the common point first.

On March 15, 1979 Forrest pleaded guilty to several offences and was sentenced by Brighton Justices to consecutive terms of imprisonment totalling 12 months. An April 4, when he was in prison, the same court issued a warrant for his imprisonment for a further 144 days, consecutive to the 12-month sentence, in respect of his default in paying fines imposed by various magistrates' courts on various dates since 1975.

Regret

He was given no notice of the proceedings on April 4 and had no opportunity of making representations to the court. The first he knew of the matter was when he was told by the prison governor that he would have to serve the additional 144 days.

He applied to the Divisional Court for an order to quash the order of April 4, on two grounds, the first being that the justices had acted in law in committing him to prison without giving him any notice or warning of the hearing.

The court felt itself bound by *R v Dudley Justices ex parte Payne* (1979) 1 WLR 891, to dismiss the application; but, whose opinion Mr Ormrod, with whose opinion Mr Lloyd agreed, said that he arrived at his conclusion "with both surprise and some considerable measure of regret".

The facts in Hamilton's appeal did not differ in any relevant respect from those in Forrest's case.

In August 1971 Hamilton entered a personal recognizance of £100 to appear before Marylebone Justices about a month later in answer to a charge under the Forgery Act. He did not appear, having gone abroad; but on March 23, 1978 he was brought before the court, which ordered that his recognizance be forfeited, giving him seven days to pay. He failed to pay, and on July 12, 1979 the magistrates' court sentenced him to 30 days' imprisonment in default in accordance with the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, section 65(2). At that date Hamilton was serving five years' imprisonment in respect of another offence.

Refused

On October 22, 1979 the same court issued a warrant committing him to prison for 30 days, consecutive to the five years, and because he was in prison no inquiry into his means had to be held. He was held in prison under section 44(4) and (6) of the 1967 Act.

Hamilton was given no notice of the proceedings in the Marylebone court on either July 12 or October 22. He applied to the Divisional Court for an order of certiorari to quash the justices' orders.

His application, too, was refused. Mr Justice Comyns said that the court was bound by the *Dudley Justices* decision, "however difficult we may find it to accept the majority ruling"; and the Lord Chief Justice in agreeing with Mr Justice Comyns felt the same hesitation.

In light of those expressions of opinion by the differently constituted Divisional Courts, and having regard to the fact that the *Dudley Justices* decision was by a majority and a strong dissenting opinion was expressed by Mr Justice Robert Goff, the soundness of that decision clearly merited consideration.

The appellants might not deserve much sympathy, but the question whether they were entitled to notice of the proceedings in the magistrates' courts raised an issue of some constitutional importance.

One of the principles of natural justice was that a person was entitled to notice and opportunity to be heard before any judicial order was pronounced against him, so that he, or someone acting on his behalf, might make such representations as he saw fit. That was the rule of *audi alteram partem* which applied to all judicial proceedings, unless its application had been excluded by Parliament expressly or by necessary implication: *Bonaker v Evans* (1950) 16 QBD 162, 171 by Lord Atkin.

That was why the judges in the Divisional Court had expressed surprise at the decisions to which they felt themselves driven by authority. Mr Cocks, as amicus curiae, while accepting that the pro-

ceedings before the justices were judicial proceedings, argued that the application of the rule had been excluded by necessary implication in the relevant legislation.

The power of justices to commit to prison for default in payment of fines was derived from section 64(1) of the 1952 Act which provided that "where default is made in paying a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction or order of a magistrates' court, the court may issue a warrant committing the offender to prison".

That power was subject to certain limitations set out in section 44 of the 1967 Act, the relevant subsection being (6).

His Lordship read the subsection and said that the argument accepted by the majority in *Dudley Justices* and advanced by Mr Cocks, was that the effect of that subsection was to dispense with the need for any hearing, before fixing a term of imprisonment or issuing a warrant for imprisonment in the case of an offender who was already serving a term of imprisonment: see Mr Justice Michael Davies at page 895.

His Lordship was unable to see that. The effect of section 44(6) was that, where an offender was in prison, a warrant for his commitment in default of paying a fine might

be issued without a hearing at which the offender is present. A hearing could proceed in the absence of the offender.

The subsection did not provide nor did it imply that a warrant might be issued without any hearing at all. Still less did it provide or imply that no notice need be given to an offender that some procedure was about to take place in the magistrates' court which might result in his being committed to prison for a period consecutive to the sentence he was serving.

Reasons

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Robert Goff's dissenting opinion in *Dudley Justices* (at page 897) that "... a requirement of 'presence' is a very different thing from a requirement of 'notice'".

Subsection (6) means "... while it says, that except in the two excluded cases, the actual presence of the offender is required at the hearing before a warrant of commitment is issued, that is because, except in the two excluded cases, a means inquiry must take place and for that purpose the offender has to attend the hearing".

The reason why a means inquiry was not required where an offender was serving a sentence of imprisonment probably

was that the majority of such offenders who had defaulted in paying fines had no substantial means, so that the inquiry would be futile.

An additional reason might be that any imprisonment for default in paying fines would generally run concurrently with the sentence being served so that its length would have little practical effect.

However that might be, section 44(6) was not, in his Lordship's opinion, capable of being read as dispensing with a hearing altogether or with the need for his actual presence, and on a matter of constitutional importance such as this, its meaning ought not to be stretched in such a way as to prejudice the offender.

In many cases he might have no excuse to offer for defaulting in payment, and, if he neither appeared in person or by a representative, nor sent a written explanation, the hearing would in practice consist simply of the justices making an appropriate order.

If he made any representations either personally, or through another person, or in writing, he was entitled to have them taken into consideration by the justices before they made an order.

An obvious representation might be that any period of im-

prisonment should run concurrently with his sentence, on the ground that his default had not been his fault, such as ill health or loss of his job.

His Lordship would answer that certified question in both appeals in the negative.

On the second ground of Forrest's appeal, Mr Nardacchia argued that the justices had acted ultra vires on April 4 in that the total sentence imposed on that date and on March 15 exceeded 12 months which was the maximum they were entitled to impose under section 108(2) of the 1952 Act.

Subsection

He submitted that the maximum of six months under subsection (1) of section 108 or 12 months under subsection (2) applied to the aggregate of the terms of imprisonment imposed by any one magistrates' court.

Mr Cocks pointed out it might be argued that the maximum applied to the aggregate of all terms imposed by any magistrates' court.

Whichever form the argument took, it depended on the provisions of section 108, and particularly the latter part of subsection (1).

That provided: "(1) A magistrates' court imposing imprisonment on any person may order that the term of imprisonment shall commence on the expiration of any other term of imprisonment imposed by that or any other court; but where a magistrates' court imposes two or more terms of imprisonment to run consecutively the aggregate of such terms shall not, subject to the provisions of this section, exceed six months".

The first part of that subsection down to the semicolon contained nothing to suggest that the date on which the "other term of imprisonment" was imposed was material. If it was imposed by "that court" (namely, the magistrates' court itself) that might have been either on the same occasion as the sentence which was to be consecutive to it was imposed, or on an earlier occasion.

But if it was imposed by "any other court" it must have been imposed on an earlier occasion. When one came to the part after the semicolon, the natural and plain meaning of the provision that where a magistrates' court "imposes two or more terms of imprisonment to run consecutively" was that it referred to imposing two or more terms of imprisonment on the same occasion.

His Lordship agreed with the Divisional Court that the subsection, on its natural reading, did not limit the power of the justices to imposing sentences of a total amount of six months

or 12 months in all circumstances. If it had done so, it would have been inconsistent with the policy given effect to by subsection (4), and while that was not impossible it was unlikely.

His Lordship recognized that the result of so construing the subsection was to leave room for what might seem an anomaly; provided that sentences were imposed on different days there was, in theory, no limit to the aggregate of the terms of imprisonment that a magistrates' court might impose. But that was only theoretical, because in practice if the aggregate were going to be greatly in excess of six or 12 months, the magistrates' court would remit the case to a higher court for sentence.

In any event his Lordship regarded the construction of subsection (1), the only subsection relevant for the present purpose, as too plain to be shaken by consequences which might seem anomalous.

He would answer the second question in the Forrest appeal in the affirmative.

He would allow both appeals. Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Salmon, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Selwood Leathes & Hooper, Brighton; Gentle, Mathias & Co; Treasury Solicitor.



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Anonymity for pornography trial witnesses

Regina v Hove Justices ex parte Gibbons

Female witnesses in a prosecution involving alleged publication of pornographic photographs and conspiracy to procure women to become common prostitutes were allowed to remain anonymous by Mr Justice Gibson sitting as a Divisional Court.

Peter James Gibbons, of Eaton Manor, The Drive, Hove, applied for leave to appeal to quash an order made by the Hove justices on June 10, 1981, that all female witnesses to be called by the prosecution should remain anonymous and that the

press should be most careful in respect of that anonymity. The defendant was charged with offences relating to the publication of pornographic photographs and with conspiring to procure women to become common prostitutes.

HIS LORDSHIP refusing the application, held that there was no arguable case for allowing leave to appeal. Attorney General v Leveille Magazine Ltd and Others (The Times, May 3, 1979; [1979] 2 WLR 247) established the principle that the court could derogate from the principle of open justice if it was necessary to do so in the due administration of justice, and the justices had jurisdiction to make the order.

Although the publication of the names and addresses of the witnesses might help the defendant in the preparation of his defence by being able to show that some or all of the witnesses had been prostitutes, that information was of limited use.

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A LEAD BY THE IRISH BISHOPS

The latest statement about Northern Ireland by the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland has an urgency and bite that command attention. The bishops express alarm at the concomitant of the hunger strike in the Maze prison: murder, bombing, violence, arson, intimidation, wilful destruction of property, incitement to revenge, initiation of children into violence — the words are theirs. This sense of alarm is widely spread in the province of Northern Ireland and in the Republic, not simply because of the incidents themselves. The deaths in the Maze, the penumbra of disorder and intimidation, and the ferocity of the passions engaged are driving the two communities in parts of Ulster into irreconcilable antagonism and breaking the surface of civil order in the Republic.

This leads the bishops to issue a moral condemnation of the hunger strikers and those who direct them, more particularly, as stringent and unqualified than any they have uttered before. They speak with clarity and courage, and if Irish bishops possess a tithing of the influence over their flocks with which the rest of the world credits them

their remarks should have a beneficial political effect. The statement goes on to commend again the proposal made earlier this month by the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, a body associated with the bishops' conference. We ask the prisoners and those who speak for them to make it clear that the commission's proposals on clothing, association and work would, if implemented, provide a avenue for a solution. We ask the Government to show a corresponding openness on these issues.

The proposals the commission made in those areas were for modest changes in the general prison regime in Northern Ireland in a direction in which significant changes have already been made. They would not taken together, amount to "political status", differentiate between IRA prisoners and other convicted criminals, or hand over the ordering of prison life to the IRA command structure. They are changes that any government could contemplate making on merit.

The commission appears to recognize, however, that the Government cannot be expected to promise such changes in the

prison regime without assurances from the protesting prisoners and their backers. The reason why the Government cannot simply make those concessions is that the IRA, which has found in its prison protest an effective means of grabbing the limelight, of prolonging agitation in and about Ulster, and of embarrassing the British Government (and Prince Charles and the Royal Ballet into the bargain) would swallow the concessions, bask in the prestige thus acquired in the eyes of sympathizers, and be back on the blanket in no time.

The farthest the Government can go on its own is to express, as before, a general readiness to keep the prison regime under review with humanitarian considerations in mind. Before it can be more specific, strikes and public assurances must be forthcoming from the protesting prisoners about the adequacy of their protest, and about their readiness to conform to rules so amended. Nothing short of that will do. Otherwise the Provisionals will turn concession to their advantage, adding weakness to the other defects with which their propaganda brands the British Government.

JAPAN MUST OPEN ITS MARKETS

Japan's ministers have been touring Europe in parallel this week, listening to the increasingly aggrieved Europeans complain about the imbalance in trade. The Prime Minister, Mr. Suzuki, has been in national capitals trying to reach specific agreements on their individual problems. Mr. Tanaka, the Trade Minister, has been in Brussels talking to the European Commission. There have been many encouraging statements, but little concrete action.

The complexity of the talks reflects the confusion of the Europeans on the key question in their relations with Japan. Who is in charge? Is it the individual governments, each with their different problems and their different attitudes to Japanese competition? Or is it the European Commission, which claims the right to negotiate all external trade but has signally failed to make that claim effective?

There can be little doubt that the Japanese Government has gained great advantage from its ability to divide the Europeans. Before Mr. Suzuki began his tour of Europe, a series of agreements limiting Japanese car exports bought off some of the most important threats to continued free entry. The Germans, who had shown signs of

switching from their commitment to free trade to a more protectionist approach, were given a relatively generous agreement. Similar agreements followed quickly for the Benelux countries.

The Japanese can say that Europe has not earned the right to be treated as one unit in the way that the United States is a single market. Not only are trade policies uncoordinated, there is no attempt being made to restructure the over-large European car industry. As long as national governments try to protect their own national industries they must expect to be treated separately on trade matters.

Whatever the justification, this does not alter the fact that as the latest round of consultations comes to an end, the Europeans have achieved little in the way of concrete action from Japan. The private sector in that country is to be informed of the importance of buying goods from abroad. It will take a long time before we know whether that will actually lead to more European goods breaking through the impenetrable curtain of the Japanese distribution system. There have been previous statements made by the Japanese Government on the need to boost imports. But

although Volkswagen proudly boasts that it is the number one imported car in Japan, there are still only a very few cars to be seen on the streets of Tokyo.

So far, the one great concession which seems to have emerged is that Japan has made its promises in Brussels, though it has not come remotely near negotiating a trade agreement with the European Commission. It is now for the Europeans to make something of this concession. They should stop bickering among themselves on who suffers most from the Japanese challenge and work out a long-term strategy which allows them to meet the problems of dealing with the world's fastest growing economy.

In the more immediate future they ought to make sure that the talks of the past week become the basis of decisions at the forthcoming world economic summit in Ottawa, not an excuse for avoiding them. At that meeting the Japanese Government should be told clearly that it will be judged by its actions, not its words, over the next year and if its actions do not meet the reasonable demands of its partners to open up the Japanese market, that they will take steps on their own to make sure that their industries are not wiped out a little at a time.

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The suspension of negotiations between Greece and the United States on the future of the American military bases in Greece means there is now bound to be a period of uncertainty. The issues cannot be resolved before the Greek election, which has to be held by November at the latest, and there is a possibility that Pasok, the leftist party headed by Dr. Papandreu, may emerge as the strongest party, or even win an overall majority. Pasok is formally opposed to the bases and to Greek membership of Nato, so it is possible that, by not tying up an agreement while the going was good, the Americans have missed an opportunity to settle the issue with a sympathetic government.

That, anyway, is the argument that has been used by the present Greek Government, headed by Mr. Karamanlis and the New Democracy Party. They tried to play on American fears of what would happen if Pasok came to power. In the process, they made extensive demands of the Americans in return for the

right to use the bases. Among other things, they asked for some sophisticated military equipment, including aircraft and an airborne early warning system. But any equipment of this sort which is handed over to the Greeks could be used as well against the Turks as against Warsaw Pact countries to the north, and the Americans have also to take account of Turkish sensitivities. So at a certain point the Americans dug in their heels, and that led to yesterday's decision by the Greeks to suspend the talks.

There is no deadline for a settlement; the 1953 agreement under which the American bases were originally established was open-ended. But there are many parts of the 1953 agreement which the Greeks find unsatisfactory, and negotiations have been under way for several years. The difficulty is that, in spite of being Nato allies, Greece and Turkey tend to be primarily aware of their own bilateral differences. This means that the Americans have

had to strike a rough balance in the military aid given to each of them. But in the negotiations now suspended, the Greeks were asking not only for a balance but for some form of guaranteed American support in the event of a Turkish attack.

In suspending the negotiations, the Greek Government hopes it will be able to avoid a decision on the bases during the election campaign of knuckling under to the Americans. On their side, the Americans have shown that they are not prepared to pay just any price for the use of bases — something that will be relevant elsewhere. They might in any case have had to renegotiate any agreement with a Pasok government. There was also the consideration that to judge by recent statements of Dr. Papandreu, the party's policies could be moderated if it ever took office. Even so, the suspension of the talks leaves an uncomfortable question mark over Nato's south-eastern corner. It is a pity the Greek government pitched its demands so high.

University control

From Professor D. Z. Phillips
Sir, The Secretary General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, in describing the struggle of universities against the Government's desire to reduce the size of the University system within two years (June 13), rightly dismisses wild descriptions which suggest that universities are about to have their traditional freedoms destroyed, that universities have already sold these freedoms (Mr. Stretch, June 9), and that there is every prospect of "political control" (Professor Griffith, June 3). Unfortunately, in doing so, he substitutes a wild description of his own: "The autonomy of universities does not confer upon them a right to pursue their own self-interest, as wisely as they can, the national interest, and to identify the particular ways in which they can best pursue it."

There is one fundamental drawback to this suggestion: it does not mean anything. If we are told that institutions which are in receipt of public monies should take their share of costs in public, we know what we are talking about. We can then argue about such cuts, whether there should be any, what their extent or character should or should not be, etc. That discussion, however, will only be confused by the assumption that the interests and concerns of the various and diverse movements which make up a society can be divided in terms of some common coinage (the national interest) in terms of which their value can be assessed.

Of course, movements may be assessed from a specific point of view, but that point of view will not

be a common conception of value, the real importance of different movements can only be brought out in terms of the discussion activity. They may flourish or decline, but not because of their contribution to a supposed "national interest". It is particularly depressing, therefore, to hear the Secretary General claim that "there is no way of separating the universities' interests and welfare can be separated from those of society at large" and that "the needs of society must always be foremost among the concerns of those who make university decisions".

If this is to be the character of the thinking to which we are to be subjected we must be more grateful than ever for the assurance of the Chairman of the University Grants Committee that "it will be for each university, as is proper, to make decisions within its total resources and in the light of advice given by the Committee" and that they "are not setting out to provide a detailed blueprint for each establishment".

Yours faithfully,
D. Z. PHILLIPS,
Department of Philosophy,
University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park,
Swansea.
June 15.

Strain on charities

From Mr. Nicholas Hinton
Sir, The Charity Commission's 1980 Annual Report states that "complaints about the administration of charities have increased greatly over the past six years" (The Times, June 17). I suspect that the relatively small number of actual complaints that reach the Charity Commission is a symptom of a larger and

different problem. This is that many voluntary organizations are being stretched to their full capacity, and beyond, as their demands placed upon them grow and grow.

For example, in the past decade, and with the encouragement of successive governments, voluntary organizations have willingly expanded their activities of care for an increasing number of elderly people in the community, caring for the mentally ill, providing alternatives to imprisonment, citizens' advice, special programmes for the unemployed, care for alcoholics and addicts, community relations services, and housing.

Without any doubt, the involvement of voluntary organizations, volunteers, and community groups on such a scale is both necessary and desirable. Whereas, in some instances, services provided by voluntary organizations may be comparatively cost-effective, it is shortsighted and potentially damaging if little attention is paid to important, but unappealing, matters such as training, management and financial skills. Administration and competent service is vital. There is a responsibility upon those who fund voluntary organizations, whether central government, local government, charitable trusts, commerce, industry and, indeed, members of the public — to acknowledge the need for voluntary organizations to meet the costs of necessary and competent administration, however unappealing.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, W.C1.
June 17.

Strike threat at British Gas

From the Chairman of British Gas

Sir, The allegation in Rupert Morris's story (Business News, June 17) that I have given "at least tacit support" to the threat of strikes against the defence of British Gas, remaining activities is totally unfounded. The trade unions know that British Gas management is dedicated to the maintenance of service to our customers. Indeed, I would wish to point to the fact that public services have been fully maintained during a long period since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reported last year following a reference made in December 1977. We have made this view clear in statements on this issue distributed to every individual in the Corporation's employ and it is a great deal for the dedication of our employees that they have responded so far to that stimulus.

It is not true that we have used the threat of industrial action as an argument against implementation of the Monopolies Commission's opinions. What we have done is to make it clear to Government that we will resist the threat of industrial action in circumstances detailed by the trade unions to be real notwithstanding the moderation that has been shown so far. Any decision to use industrial action will be solely that of the trade unions involved.

Finally, can I make it plain that the Corporation's opposition to the ending of the Corporation's retailing activities is in order to protect, first and foremost, gas customers' interests? I should also add, in view of the direct attribution in much of the press to myself as the source of resistance, that I am a member of the Corporation, both full-time and part-time members, is not divided on this issue. It should be a matter for sober reflection that six of the board members are external. British Gas has an extensive experience and proven records of achievement in other sectors of the economy.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS ROOKE,
British Gas Corporation,
Riverside House,
10 Grosvenor Road, SW1.
June 18.

Local spending

From Councillor David Martin

Sir, The Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council (June 13) comments on the fact that local councillors in the understanding of the problems of local government. He claims that "from differing standpoints, both ministers and leading members of the Association of County Councils pursue similar ideological and political goals with equal sincerity and fervour" yet the "wise advice" of experienced colleagues at local level is disregarded.

The result is of course that "national and political ideals" are not in practice pursued "with equal sincerity and fervour". Valid as the criticisms are that Whitehall does not itself provide sufficient examples of reducing manpower and functions, of outstriking the viciousness of inducing privatisation, of cutting down its own expenditure, the fact remains that ministers deserve credit for perceiving that. Few would have yet taken any such thing like the similar reforms required. The imagination of councils such as Malden and Southend-on-Sea in actually putting new ideas into practice is encouraging. Such a council as Malden, for example, has attracted not only national headlines but also the admiration of councillors elsewhere whose fervour is constantly restrained by elders "with more experience" and in possession of positions of power at both local level and on the Association of County and District Councils.

Most of today's leaders in local government are the product of the experience and habits of thought before 1975, the year in which the party was officially announced to be over. But many of the reellers have still not returned home. Hence Mr. Martin's "wise advice" is not arbitrary. They have been granted to him by Parliament. They have nothing in common with Charles I and Sir Robert Peel.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. P. MARTIN,
Oxton House,
Keston,
Exeter.
June 16.

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Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. P. MARTIN,
Oxton House,
Keston,
Exeter.
June 16.

University origin

From Professor Kitty Scoullar Datta

Sir, Mrs A. S. Byatt's account (Arts, June 12, p. 29) of her visit to West Bengal has just reached Calcutta.

To help the record straight, Jadavpur University was not "founded by the English" but by a remarkable group of Bengali nationalists who wished to provide an alternative kind of "higher education" to the British Government at the beginning of the century, which, they believed, served British more than Indian needs in providing clerks and executives rather than engineers and scientists.

The original engineering college later developed into a multi-faculty university, and with the idea of close student-teacher relations in small groups built into its structure in a way that is somewhat rare in Indian universities. These facts may have something to do with Mrs Byatt's sense that our English Department "is one of the liveliest I've ever been in".

Yours sincerely,
KITTY SCOULLAR DATTA,
The English Department,
Jadavpur University,
Calcutta 72.
June 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons of trade with Japan

From Mr J. P. Hall

Sir, Mr Edward Heath's article (June 16) on trade for discussion the visiting Japanese Prime Minister is long on statesmanship but, with respect, breathtakingly short on realities.

Deplorable though revival of bilateralism in trade must be, it seems to be on the verge of being brought about by Japan's single-minded drive for dominance in the world's great markets. Unfortunately, nothing that has happened in recent years suggests that Mr. Heath's visit will turn out to be anything but a placebo.

Nor does a Japanese repetition of the United States' 1950-1973 European investment programme offer a comparable prospect of balancing trade, as Mr. Heath suggests. Europe is too divided, hence too exposed, for this to provide anything but a field day for Japanese industrialists. In any case, our own narrow economic nationalism alone are not destined to suppress the economic basis of the EEC, then a big Japanese investment programme would be a disaster for us.

In any case, one compelling reason for British workers to support our industrial management drive for vastly improved productivity in the critical next few years is the control they can exercise over their owners and their bosses through the ballot box, which would be quite out of the question if we were a servile, multinational company that simply pull out when they see "more favourable conditions elsewhere".

Using apparently obliging Japanese businessmen to find ready-made markets for made-in-Britain goods, as well as to introduce trade unions to the idea and practice of work-discipline, may have a quite enormous superficial attraction to any former tenant of 10 Downing Street, but if we wish to keep control over our own industrial

destiny, with all that this implies, it seems to me that we must face up to the need to do it not only unaided, but also unimpeded by exterior complications.

Yours truly,
JOHN HALL,
74 High Street,
Buckinghamshire,
June 18.

From Mr Harry J. Hornsby

Sir, The Prime Minister in her CBI speech (report, June 17) referred to the half million people, declared redundant in the last 18 months. We need to recognise all those skilled talents that are lost to British industry, temporarily and permanently.

But the policy is right, productivity is winning and we are on the threshold of breaking out from the recession, along with most of the rest of the world. The amplitude of the economic cycle is ever more dynamic.

Competitiveness in British industry is the keynote and we are making strides. We should respect, not fear our Japanese counterparts. There is no reason why we should not sell our goods in their markets as they do in ours. Marketing is best achieved by a local presence, and many of our large firms have already achieved this in Japan. It is not easy, it is at present difficult to establish an Anglo-Japanese company in that country, with a majority British interest. But if Japanese companies can establish a presence in Britain, British companies should have similar access to Japan. We hope the Government will pursue this.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HORNSBY,
Director General,
Process Plant Association,
25 Whitehall, SW1.
June 17.

Debasement of food

From the President of the Association of Public Analysts

Sir, May I comment on the report in your issue of June 15, which rightly draws attention to the sophisticated debasement of meat products made possible by the use of modern technology.

It is correct that the identification and accurate quantitative determination of adulterants such as protein and lipid emulsion present particular analytical problems, particularly if such ingredients are used in relatively small proportions. The situation, however, is not black as it is painted by your correspondent. It is understandable that enforcement analysts should lag behind developments in food processing, for, until here, adulteration has been developed and marketed as food scientists set to work to develop methods for its detection. Experience shows that enforcement analysts eventually catch up, but sometimes less rapidly than they would wish.

As an example, for some years soya products were being offered to butchers with the claim that they could be used as a substitute for lean meat and the public analyst would not be able to tell. A method of analysis was developed (in the Department of Food Science at the University of Leeds) as a result of which the adulteration was detected. Many successful prosecutions have been recorded in respect of this.

Sophisticated debasement requires sophisticated analytical techniques to detect it. Such techniques are generally time-consuming, often require special skills and expensive modern instruments and are consequently very costly. It is the experience of public analysts that the local authorities who are responsible for enforcement are unwilling or unable to make available the finance essential for expensive research and analysis. In this respect we fall far behind the United States, Canada and some of our EEC partners where expenditure on food enforcement (per head of population) is far higher than in this country. There is no lack of expertise amongst public analysts — what is missing is the provision of financial resources to enable this expertise to be fully used.

The Food Standards Committee Report on Meat Products published last year drew attention to almost all the forms of debasement referred to in your article. If present abuses are to be curtailed and the consumer is to be adequately safeguarded it is essential that existing regulations which control the composition and labelling of meat products are amended to allow the more recommended by the Food Standards Committee.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DALLEY,
30 Park Place,
Leeds.
June 16.

Till death us do part

From Mrs Deborah Wood

Sir, If it wasn't for marriage, nine out of ten divorces would never happen. And yet, there is no "DANGER! THIS MARRIAGE CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH" warning on the marriage certificate. Divorce statistics tell us the timetable while the real culprit goes, not free. Naturally, one mumbles something about taking the vows to last, but romance itself (which is a lot like being drunk) tends to blur plain common sense. If marriage was as difficult to undergo as, say, a heart transplant, the divorce rate would decline dramatically. But who bothers to scare the hell out of you BEFORE the ceremony? Scare tactics come into play only after the vows have been uttered.

It is perhaps a sad comment on our times, but the fact is, nowadays people need to be frightened before they think twice. War, murder, obesity and divorce are only bad when massive publicity cautions and upsets the public. Up to date, divorce has received all the publicity. It should be the other way around. There ought to be television commercials about marriage. Famous actors should set aside their coffee beans and ask, "Do you have any idea how long forever is?"

"Forever" has become a storybook notion and "forever" is precisely

what marriage is supposed to be about. Bold visual graphics depicting the next life and outer space could give "forever" a whole new meaning. Unless, of course, we abandon the institute of marriage as we know it, and adopt a short leasehold system of mating instead.

Why not institute a three-month marriage survival course? Require all would-be brides and grooms to swat for marriage! Have couples study the commitment involved. Teach them about "forever" without options. Have them discuss and analyse about subjects like: "Children and Abortion", "Community Property" and "Mutual Aspirations". Ask them to explain concepts like "For Richer or Poorer", "Freedom" and "Compromise". Insist that lovers compare notes and grades received for each subject covered. Would you marry a man or woman who almost failed "Fidelity"?

The Church does its part, but that's not enough. We are a cynical people in need of a more cynical approach. Those who pass the tests, deserve to be married. Those who fail have lost nothing other than the stars in their eyes. If it takes fear to make us think twice, scare us to death, but not to divorce.

Yours faithfully,
MRS. DEBORAH WOOD,
25 Hyde Park Gardens, W2.
June 14.

Defence review

From Mr M. B. F. Rainier

Sir, Most people will strongly endorse Sir Patrick Wall's support (June 15) of Admiral Stansfield Turner's important article (June 12) enjoining us to think again before cutting back the Royal Navy as it is strongly removed to be the outcome of the current defence review. Senator John Tower, Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, has recently the same plan in London's fortnight ago, and it is certainly wise to think to suppose that the United States or our Nato allies can fill the gaps left by any reduction we make in what are already totally inadequate so-called "second" forces.

It is true that the costs of ships, weapon systems, etc., are presently rising faster than the additional spending on defence. But many are convinced that the alternative to cuts at least in the operational fleet is not to obtain more money from elsewhere. The navy is expected to need just under 30 per cent of the 1981-82 estimates — £3,668 million including Polar. Major savings are certainly possible in shore bases and facilities, but many believe that the drastic long-term savings which we need from three services can and must come from unthinking rethinking of strategy and tactics, and imaginative new designs of much cheaper, smaller, more economical and cost-effective ships,

aircraft, weapons and other equipment, making much prompter use of new research and development, some of which can drastically reduce equipment size (and cost). An inordinate proportion of the very high construction costs is due to the cost of the ship's hull during development and construction, and the consequent incredible time scale of 12-15 years from staff requirement to entering service.

The Royal Navy has always pioneered naval aviation, recently with helicopters in most of its major surface ships, and now with the Invincible which, despite her unfortunate political antecedents, incorporates a number of novel innovations, not least the British vertical/short take-off and landing "Harrier" and its ski-jump launch system. But at £220 million for each ship (without the aircraft), not even the United States can afford enough of them. The challenge must be to build four or five small carriers for this price, similar drastic pruning of costs must and can be applied to all other classes.

Shipbuilding, industry and exports would benefit greatly from such new thinking — quite apart from our foreign policy and influence, which could still count on British sea power, just as important to our world trade and imports in peace, as it is in war.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL RANKEN,
23 Clare Lawn Avenue, SW14.
June 15.

The state of California

From Professor C. J. Tunstall

Sir, Henry Fairfield's piece, "California, a confused state of mind" (June 17), in stressing the state's oddballness and its plastic superficiality, describes only one of the three Californias which make up the full reality.

Equally real is a second California, a rather ordinary place which in many ways resembles other large states in the midwest and south. California is the most suburban of all states. The Nielsen ratings for Los Angeles are much closer to the television preferences of the entire United States than are those for New York or Washington. This is California as Illinois-by-the-Sea.

The third California is the vanguard state. In many things, including things of the mind, California is in the lead: scientific agriculture as well as aerospace and micro-electronics. The new University of California campus at San Diego — where I taught for a year — has five Nobel prize winners on campus and another five in off-campus research institutes.

All three Californias are represented in the state's politics. California's extreme preference for the polling principle has since 1911 led to all kinds of electoral oddities. But politically California is also in many ways like other large states. Finally there have been aspects of political vanguardism — one of these being the salience in all state elections since 1934 of electronic media in general and Hollywood in particular.

Henry Fairfield writes about California without directly mentioning Hollywood, the world centre of film, television and popular music production. In emphasizing only one of the three Californias — the oddball one — he fails to grasp that what he is criticizing is in part a myth deliberately exaggerated by Hollywood for purposes of amusement and profit.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY TUNSTALL,
The City University,
Northampton Square, EC1.
June 18.

The War Game

From Mr John Arkell

Sir, As a past Director of the BBC involved at the time in the decision not to show "The War Game" may I comment on Mr Hornsby's letter (June 13)?

First, I hope he will forgive my saying that I personally think there must be very exceptional circumstances, if any at all, to justify the failure to show the programme. The details of a discussion in any body whose deliberations are known to be confidential. Apart from the moral aspect, to do so can have an inhibiting effect on later discussions on any subject, leading to less free conclusions.

Secondly, I am certain myself that at the time the decision was taken, after the most careful thought and advice from within the BBC, it was right. The main consideration in the showing was the likely effect it would have on the nervous and the lonely, reaching as it would into their own homes. It is a different matter to consider a deliberate choice of purchasing a ticket for a showing at a cinema. Nor is it any answer to say that one can always switch off the set. The decision was not pressurized (letter, Gillian Peal, June 16) and was entirely that of the BBC.

Finally, circumstances change. The whole public may now be inured to the horror of such films. A CBS programme on this general subject is being shown in the States. Wider issues may now be at stake. It seems to me that the present interesting controversy may or not lead to a different decision now as to whether to show this or some similar film.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARKELL,
Pinckney,
Fawley Bottom,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire,
June 17.

Inner city churches

From the Reverend R. W. Cotton

Sir, In his letter (June 3) regarding the plight of inner city churches, the Reverend Gavin Reed suggests that the Church of England is really suffering from a "crisis of urban and urban. There is more than a measure of truth in what he says.

Whilst an Archbishop's Commission on the problem of inner city churches might be appropriate, surely immediate action could be taken by the diocesan bishops to initiate imaginative "twinning" of suburban churches with urban churches. This would expose members of suburban churches to the problems of their inner city brethren, and at the same time might stimulate their financial and spiritual support of their own worship and work in such situations.

But it would also expose them to the remarkable spiritual life that exists in many such urban areas, which in its turn would inhibit any tendency to paternalism and help suburban church members to realize that they have much to receive from the churches of inner city churches.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. COTTON,
Christ Church Vicarage,
62 Lubbock Road,
Chislehurst,
Kent.
June 9.

Midas touch

From Mr A. V. Myerscough

Sir, It was explained to me recently by a citizen of The Netherlands that the guilder notes are marked by raised dots, so that a blind person can feel the value of the note — some guilder notes carry one dot, some two, according to the value.

As this is the International Year of the Disabled, could this idea be copied here. For many years I have watched my own mother feeling currency notes, unable to distinguish one from the other. It would make no difference to us who are blessed with sight, but a lot of help to those who are blind.

Yours faithfully,
A. V. MYERSCOUGH,
43 Ashburn Road,
Heaton Norris,
Sunderland,
Cheshire.
June 12.

THE ARTS

Truffaut harvests time's rewards

The Last Metro (A)

Curzor

Debut Hunt (X)

Classic, Haymarket; Studio, Oxford Street; Odeon, Westbourne Gr

Friday the 13th Part 2 (X)

Ritz

Recently one of the more austere New York radical critics wrote damningly of Francois Truffaut, specifying his irreparable fault as reliance on technique and charm. Yet, after all, technique and charm are rare enough, and certainly no qualities to be altogether despised. But it is true that Truffaut, with his enduring regard for the legacies and the old masters of film history, and a certain quality of romanticism, has long been the least fashionable of that generation of French directors who first emerged, almost a quarter of a century ago, as the New Wave.

Time brings in its rewards, though; and perhaps these qualities are at last coming back into fashion, which may explain why *The Last Metro* has proved Truffaut's biggest commercial success in years. The title refers to the last main of the day, which marks the compulsory termination of every Parisian's evening in the days of Occupation and curfew. In fact the metro never actually figures in the film: Truffaut's recreation of the Occupation years is entirely seen from the narrow viewpoint of a little theatre and its resident company. The Jewish director is rumoured to be abroad, but in fact has gone quite literally underground in the cellar under the stage, where he listens to rehearsals through the air vents, and directs the production at one remove, through his non-Jewish wife, who has succeeded to the control of the theatre.

The resident troupe represent different facets of the occupation mentality. The new Jewish premier (Gerard Depardieu) covers for the Resistance; the pianist (Sabine Maupied) cheerfully collaborates when it furthers her

career; the best survive as best as they can, but they are concentrating their efforts and their hopes on the next production and the next performance. The people (rather like the film unit of *Truffaut's Day for Night*) have reader reprints from reality, in their self-obsessed worlds, than ordinary folk.

The greatest menace is not the Germans, but French collaborators. The theatre's very existence is daily threatened by the activities of a rabidly anti-semitic critic. Time's rewards again: at our last glimpse of him in an impressionistic post-Liberation epilogue, he is scrambling through the flaming ruins of Europe to find some safe bolt-hole. This character, his humiliating confrontation with the *jeune premiere*, and other elements in the story, Truffaut reveals, were suggested by the autobiography of Jean Marais (Marais threatened the collaborationist critic of *Je Suis Partout*, Alain Lambeaux, for his review of Cocteau's *La Machine Infernale*).

Movie influences are always evident in Truffaut's films. The story, he has said, is equally inspired by Ernst Lubitsch's 1942 comedy *To Be or Not to Be*, in which Jack Benny and Carole Lombard play the principals of a Warsaw theatre, whose ham instincts and professional vanity cannot be crushed even by Nazi occupation. There is a hint of *The Phantom of the Opera* in the presence of the director in the cellar; inevitably, too, of *Les Enfants du Paradis*, the supreme celebration of the theatre and its people actually made during the Occupation. There are tributes to Truffaut's heroes, Jean Renoir (including the casting of Pauline Dubois, the little maid in *Le Règne de Jean*, as an elderly character lady) and Alfred Hitchcock; and even an interpolated fragment of Truffaut's own first feature, *L'Amour d'un Jeune Homme*, with the child Jean-Pierre L  aud wandering anachronistically through a metro station.

Such personal allusions are enjoyable, but never intrusive or in danger of dissipating the overall impression of a period of liberation. The action rarely goes outside the theatre or the little yard into which the stage door disgorges; there is hardly a glimpse of daylight until the end of the film and the moment of liberation. Until then, everything happens at night, or in the windowless interior of the theatre. Yet vivid details — the way the girls paint stockings on their legs, the businesslike operation of the black market, the electricity cuts, the tyranny of documents — will suddenly



Retreat from reality: Catherine Deneuve with Jean-Pierre L  aud in *The Last Metro*.

light up whole vistas of Paris, forty years ago. Human relationships, too, are put out of the true in these times, by the intimacies of complicity or the distance of suspicion. Catherine Deneuve (whose good looks seem quite unfaded) is an actress who is as good as her director, and her performance as the director's wife is among her best: a mixture of calculated charm, reserve, and passion subjugated to expediency. Her relationship with the prisoner in the cellar (the German actor Heinz Bennent) and Depardieu's L  aud-Jean premier bring to mind a rather older Jules et Jim.

Truffaut's most inspired piece of casting, though, is that of Jean-Louis R  chard, a heavy, dull-eyed, ponderously moving actor, quite new to the screen, but chillingly effective in the role of the Jew-bashing critic.

Not a little of the film's charm comes from Truffaut's delight (shared with his mentor and idol, Renoir) in the delects and artifice of the stage. Rather

like the trick opening of *Day for Night*, he leads us into a hospital scene, persuading us that the action has taken an abruptly unforeseen turn. Only when we are thoroughly taken in does he pull back his camera to show us it is just another play, and only then do we recognize how we have been tricked by the painted figures in the windows opposite. Truffaut has the confidence and virtuosity as well as the charm it takes to pull off such pleasures.

Charm was never part of the stock-in-trade of either Lee Marvin or Charles Bronson; and at least it can be said for a film that teams them that this way we can get them both over with at once. But *Death Hunt* is a high price to pay even for this convenience. The film claims to be based on "real events", perhaps this alone could explain a scenario quite so devoid of real drama. Marvin and Bronson are tough old birds of a feather, hardened in the Canadian wilderness, but while Marvin is a Mountie, Bronson is

some way on the wrong side of the law. The written script must have looked singularly monotonous. All that happens for most of the film is that one party shoots at the other, and the other yells "son-of-a-bitch"; and then it is the turn of the second party to shoot back. Angie Dickinson, ill-advisedly, waits in the old log cabin for Marvin to come back to bed. The director, as ill-advised, was Peter Hunt.

Friday the 13th, evidently, earned upwards of \$1m in the United States alone, so it is not surprising that it is now followed by *Friday the 13th Part 2*, which defies probability by being a good deal worse than its predecessor.

Awful little films like these remind us forcibly that the most significant part of today's cinema audience consists of early teenagers; and that the film trade adjudges their wants as few and simple. The formula is unvarying: a bunch of lush and sexy teenagers of both genders are placed in a

situation where they are picked off, one by one, suddenly and bloodily by a mysterious but certainly crazy killer. It is generally vital to the plot that the characters act with idiotic caution, and necessary to the attraction of the picture that the nymphs are mostly caught by the killer with their pants down. Literally, that is — making love, changing clothes, midnight dipping or otherwise nakedly vulnerable.

Wise old heads in the trade will explain that the way these films work is to titillate the kids with mild sex, and then give them the excuse of sudden shocks to grab each other as they sit there in their seats. It is tempting to speculate, though, what motives besides simple commercial profit inspire the older folk who actually make the films — a cynical satisfaction in the symbolic mass murder of a noisy, competitive, sexually challenging younger generation which calls the tune at the box office.

David Robin

Concerts in London

Mahler's autumnal vision of flowers

LMP/Helaty

Festival Hall

A "chapter of flowers" which Mahler intended as a romantically wistful andante to follow the first movement of his first symphony, only to discard it later along with the work's title of *Titan*, was opened once again on Wednesday as prologue to the evening's darker matter.

Laszlo Heltay, conducting the London Mozart Players, allowed *Blumine*, Mahler's "youthful folly", a full rein of seriousness, while never pushing its case, or its equally light musical texture too hard. In its recurring lilting five-note figure, its trumpet calls, its frisson of trombone staccato, it breathed out the air of autumn, its mood retrospective, its flowers fading.

It was a sensitive preparation for the *Kindertotenlieder*, its own emotional edge, always threatened by a bluntness latent morbidity on Wednesday sharpened and strengthened by its very placing and by Dame Janet Baker's performance.

A fusion of a sense of long-distant recollection, in wisdom

Donald Fraser

Wigmore Hall

Donald Fraser has been resident composer at the Prospect Theatre for a good many years, yet Wednesday's Wigmore Hall programme was the first concert presentation of any of his music since the late 1960s. It bridged this substantial gap by juxtaposing two works from that time with his two latest chamber compositions.

In fact the two early pieces were enclosed by the two late ones, and we began with the first performance of Mr Fraser's Sonata for piano, percussion and harp, played by Peter Donohoe, Gary Kertel and Fiona Hibbert. The percussion is chiefly metal (vibraphone, gongs, etc.), and this implies the music's character as a study in metallic sounds. Heard singly and in combination, these are allowed to vibrate into silence, the effect being static, occasionally poetic, suggesting a very small world yet a consistent one.

Books

The Allies and the Russian Collapse

Vol. 1, March 1917 — March 1918

By Michael Kettle

(Andre Deutsch, £14.95)

The present volume is the first of a forthcoming five-volume history of relations between the Western Allies and Russia during the years of Revolution and Civil War. The title is something of a misnomer, since the book is in fact an account drawn almost exclusively from British sources, concerning British attitudes to the Provisional Government, their Bolshevik successors, and the nascent White movement in south Russia between March 1917 and March 1918.

The author has conducted extensive research among the voluminous British archives, and tells a fascinating story of extraordinary hopes, fears, plans and delusions. His account is both fair-minded and vivid, and is written when he treats of purely Russian events that he slips into serious errors of judgment. Though he could not have consulted Dr George Katkov's recent brilliant study of the Kornilov affair, the tenuous nature of the evidence should surely have suggested that the "conspiracy" existed only in Kerensky's extant imagination.

But such criticism does not affect Mr Kettle's central study. He lays permanently to rest many aging myths and provides a truer perspective on the most influential events of the period. Above all, he restores the March and October Revolutions to their correct setting, the climax and closing phases of the Great War.

Had the Bolsheviks agreed to fight the Germans, there can be no doubt that British and French troops would have fought alongside them. As it was, it was only after much indecision and serious consideration of alternative courses that the British decided to back the Whites, and then only because the Whites advocated a continuation of the war.

Mr Kettle reconstructs the romantic story behind British efforts to contact the infant White Army of Alexander and Kornilov, vanished far in the wastes of the Kuban. It seems oddly appropriate that, among the British involved, John Buchan helped organize intelligence work within Russia, whilst Arthur Ransome spread tales of Bolshevik achievements in Petrograd.

"The Bolshevik movement could never have attained the scale or the influence which it has today without our continual support," wrote the German Foreign Minister von K  hlmann in September 1917. He was referring to the vast sums placed at their disposal by his government. To Lenin was a vital instrument of the German Army could not do: knock Russia out of the war. Like Nazism, Bolshevism was a child of the Great War, and only in this context can its achievement be understood.

Nikolai Tolstoy

London theatre

An exploration of Beckett

Texts

Riverside

Of all the major innovators still working in the modern theatre, it is more than right that Joseph Chaikin should end up in a production called *Texts*, exploring some prose works by Samuel Beckett. Mr Chaikin first came to attention by working with the Living Theatre in the United States, and when they became exiles he became the director of that most influential ensemble, the Open Theatre. While all about him fell to howling improvisations and burning masterpieces, Mr Chaikin maintained the link with the word, bringing playrights into the circle of his company.

No writer knows more about the bald power of the word than Mr Beckett, and Mr Chaikin quickly demonstrates that few actors know more about turning simple words into theatre. With his director, Steven Kent, he has taken the two works, *Texts for Nothing* and *How It Is*, and made of them a series of dramatic mysteries.

Alone on a tilted stage of wooden planks, Mr Chaikin struts, shuffles, throws himself to the ground, sits upright and fields internal debates, speaking all the part of his self-examination and even, in a superior voice, narrating the unspoken words. The words suggest that Mr Chaikin's character is a disappointed Irishman, and rarely, Mr Chaikin allows the suggestion of an Irish accent in his voice, but he does not posture as a cockney nor as a snob. There is an American quality to the adaptation which is inseparable from the performance, which gives it a colouration that would be unthinkable in a more traditional production.

It is a tribute to Mr Chaikin and Mr Kent that they become mesmerizing drama. At about an hour, they have the length of



Joseph Chaikin

Photograph by Donald Cooper

but there is only a further voice, amplified from above, merely a louder echo of Mr Chaikin's own voice.

In all the evocative activity of Mr Chaikin's sweeps across the stage, there is seldom visible purpose. There are suggestions, in the bars across the lighting and in narrow bolts of light which cross the stage, that the words are to be taken as a series of riddles, such as rising, sitting, squatting, sleeping, exist only that they might be anticipated, remembered or described.

It is a tribute to Mr Chaikin and Mr Kent that they become mesmerizing drama. At about an hour, they have the length of

precocious Clara in the playground (halfpenny for a touch, penny for a feel). This is the sanction of Miss Penberton, ladies' underwear department supervisor, a dragon spinster before whom even Hitler might have quailed but who, once she has locked herself in with the unsuspecting Percy from the warehouse and has doused her customary bottle of gin, becomes both amorous and lethal.

Margaret Robertson has a fat part and seizes it with relish, allowing none of the frequent passages of flat narrative or dull character-drawing to stand in her way. What does emerge as dramatic is one's pleasurable uncertainty about whether she will first rape him, murder him or find friendship in this pathetic, ageing figure, socially so far apart but emotionally so close. Miss Robertson makes a formidable figure having selected her peach skin peignoir rimmed with heaven knows what (here, of all places, there is an embarrassment of riches), and

the performance judged exactly, and the variations within are musically exact; not likely to convert those who hate Beckett to his bleak determination to endure, but likely to delight those who have responded before.

Mr Chaikin's performance may do more than that, however. As he stands in diked trousers and a frayed backing jacket, free of mechanical aids and visibly dividing into different voices, and thus different characters, within split seconds, he demonstrates that superb-acting can exist well outside the English tradition.

Ned Chaillet

her smoky contralto flatters even the weakest lines, but it is a shame that so much time is wasted on this rather nasty trifling when Mr Owen has far more interesting things up his sleeve about Percy which could have got us really frightened.

A different director might perhaps have secured the necessary cutting and tightening up, and reproved the author for some carelessness in his dramatic engineering: crises are created when tension is needed and then ignored. But Mr Owen has nurtured his cast's performance well. Even if somewhat overshadowed by this Oxford Street Agrippina, and finally required to display a character he can hardly make convincing, Victor Maddern's Percy is touching and full of good detail. His cry that he does not know whether he snores because he never slept with anyone who might have told him brings the best and truest laugh of the evening.

Anthony Masters

World Theatre Festival

Locations hand-picked to striking effect

Cologne's first World Theatre Festival got off to an earth-shaking start with the incomprehensible boom of a giant voice echoing from the cathedral square. Chinese, Japanese, Mexican and Japanese artists were appearing at the festival, but what language was this? Was it coming from the flying shoes whirled on the roof of the Roman-Germanic Museum? A bit further into the crowd (estimated at about 70,000) it turned out to be English, and the speaker to be Jerome Savary, purple under his pith helmet, directing a mass replay of Cologne's famed massacre of the 11,000 virgins with the aid of his Magic Circus troupe and a horde of extras from the city's dance and gymnastic clubs.

As a German offshoot of the Theatre des Nations, the Theatre des Weir has local as well as international aims. Moving to a different city every two years, its plan is to shape each programme around the retrospective of the place, by showing off its own work or bringing in locally relevant productions; as in this case with Savary's civic beano on the site of the Roman forum, or the retrospective season from Piaa Bausch's Wuppertal Dance Theatre at the Opera House, side by side with the Moscow Satire Theatre's version of *The Three Pigs* at the Schauspielhaus.

Otherwise there has been a notable absence of German material, and most of the events have been housed, to tents, cellars, abandoned urban temples, and performance spaces including the Gross St Martin Church, its war-damaged fabric restored just in time to receive the British National Theatre's production of *The Passion*. These are not compromise locations, as such has been hand-picked for environmental effects unavailable on a conventional stage. Take the case of the New York Hungarian Square Theatre Group. This took place in a gutted department store and began with a film of such length that the group had to be gathered to make the trip. A curtain then parted displaying not only real actors and a monster Buddha with television-screen eyes, but also a back wall consisting of the audience of passers-by were pressing their noses against the glass.

I found little except environmental interest in this wildly varying programme. A better New York example is *One Mo' Time*, a wonderfully reconstructed black vaudeville show of the 1920s, transported from the Village Gate to an equally informal Cologne night-spot where you cram round beer-laden tables and almost believe it when the white theatre owner comes on to hurl abuse at the crowd for blocking up the lavatories.

One Mo' Time is a tribute to the old Lyric Theatre of New Orleans, once the home of Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Sweet Mama Stachey. It sets out to revive the vaudeville repertory they played to their own audiences, and to show something of working conditions under the Theatre Owners' Booking Agency (known to the performers as "Tough on Black Asses"). The first and lasting impression of Vernel Bagneris's production is one of sheer joy as communicated through the music, the

comedy routines and the running-off-stage comedy in the dressing room. As soon as you pay close attention, though, there is not so much to laugh at. Off-stage, the company are obsessively intriguing against their skinflint boss, and even on stage there comes a moment when Mr Bagneris goes into the con make-up as Mr Sam Bopes: a real black putting on a black face at the white management's behest. Scratch the show at any point and you find exploitation and humiliation. But its main force is its love and respect for the old artists and their material. Period authenticity extends from costume in cigarettes and brands of drink to the music by which it makes the official tradition seem like a front office conspiracy. Topsy Chapman, Thais Clark and for a party on La Chapeau, Mr Sylvia Kuumba Williams make up the rest of this superb company which London needs to see as an antidote to Aint' Misbehavin'.

With the success of *Goose Pimples*, we could also do with a return from Amsterdam's Hiet Werkteater which regularly couples improvisational techniques with public issues, as in the play *Walden*, which derives from the company's experience with handicapped children. The title, with its suggestion of adventure, implies the theme by which they have broadened their specialized subject. The show consists of two parallel actions — one for the institutionalized children, the other for the children on the streets. The purpose of this arrangement gradually emerges through a series of ironic cross-references: a bench routines compared with the children's old swimming party, or the joyous tourist dance following a crippled boy's ecstatic waltz in a wheelchair.

One mark of the show's quality is that it bestows as much sympathy on the lonely holidaymakers who happen to have their health and such everything from the lute to the musical saw, and Paul Preuen who speeds the travellers through their check-in with the full virtuoso cascades of Chopin's fourth and the first free shop with a jazzed-up "Revolutionary Study". No doubt it helped that this show was installed at the Musikhochschule and Mr Preuen had a Steinerway at his disposal. France's contribution to the first week, *Le Bal*, was aptly installed in a large tent in the Neumarkt. Created by Jean-Claude Penchenat and the Theatre du Campagnol company, this is a wordless perspective of Europe since the 1930s in terms of changing dance styles: beginning with sharply choreographed, proper sequences and steadily losing focus as it moves up to date. What did come across, as the night wind stirred the canvas, was the almost constant contrast between the unending pursuit of pleasure and the bleak featureless stage on which not even a vestige of the past was ever left behind.

Irving Wardle

Aldeburgh Festival

Alan Bush

Jubilee Hall

The eightieth birthday last December of Alan Bush was not exactly the occasion for dancing in the streets, which probably came as no great surprise to the composer: he has a long time found himself musically and politically considerably more at home in the German Democratic Republic than in his native country.

However, the anniversary was happily overlooked by the Aldeburgh Festival, which yesterday offered a modest tribute in a recital by two young violinists, Maureen and Hazel Smith, with Bush himself a shade dogged but still agile at the piano.

Bush's reputation rests largely on his four operas, all written for East Germany and the Soviet Union, and only then on a few chamber works, like the challenging *Dialectic* for string quartet. The Aldeburgh homage included a recital of this quality, and therefore might have given a misleading impression of an innocuous musical meander, especially as it began with the *Lyric Interlude* for violin and piano. Written during the Second World War, this is effectively a low-pressure sonata, grey in texture and tonality, though pleasant enough in its gentle brave optimism.

A more strident tone was brought into the proceedings by the *Three Rags* Melodias for violin alone, dating from 1961 and surprising in their independence from anything too obviously Indian. Indeed, the first two pieces are in standard western modes and even the last, which is not, has at least an agency belonging more to this combative composer than to any Asian exemplar.

Nevertheless, for something of Bush at his most hard-working one had to wait for the last work, a Concertino for two violins and piano being played here for the first time. The side and scoring might suggest a dispute between the string instrument and in fact these two virtuoso parts are bound firmly together and their argument is all with the audience. The argument is conducted

through a solid allegro appoggiato with a brisk march-like main theme and three more lyrical subsidiary ideas, a spiky little canon, a waltz, and "Autumn Song" of melodic sprawl which still manages not to be too ingratiating and a final dance which tries to be lively but which given its composer, has hardly as beyond thorough decency.

Paul Griffiths

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482	194	Armenia Frontier	188	..	14.3	7.2
483	290	Camelia Inv	453	..	7.1	2.6
478	180	Fluorine	201	..	10.0	1.0
323	363	Marathon	272	..	4.6	1.7
323	373	Summit Valley	572	..	3.2	3.3
263	373	Warren Plant	208	-3	14.3	6.8

MISCELLANEOUS

48	25	Calcutta Elec	35	..	6.8	19.3
342	282	Chlorine Wkr	339	..	590	15.6
342	282	Chlorine Wkr	339	..	590	15.6
185	93	Midford Docks	113	-1	8.3	8.7
123	183	Nasco Inv	178	..	10.8	5.6
35	232	Sunderland Wk	133	..	900	12.9

* Ex dividend, * Ex alt, * Forecast dividend, * Corrected price * Interim payment passed, * Price at suspension, * Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, * Bid for conversion, * Dividend in arrears, * Forecast earnings, * Share distribution, * Ex rights, * Ex scrip or share split, * No significant data.

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Business News

THE TIMES JUNE 19 1981



Stock markets

FT Index 541.1 down 3.7
FT Gilt 66.16 down 0.51

Sterling

\$1.9765 down 210 points
Index 95.2 down 0.4

Dollar

Index 108.1 up 0.9
DM 2.3567 up 190 pts

Gold

\$439.50 down \$2

Money

3 month sterling 12 1/2
3 month Euro \$ 17 1/2
6 month Euro \$ 17 1/2

IN BRIEF

Japan gives pledge on car imports

Mr. Rokusuke Tanaka, the Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry, has agreed to convey to Japanese industry the British Government's concern that Japanese motor manufacturers should adhere strictly to their voluntary curb on exports to the United Kingdom.

He gave this undertaking yesterday, during a 90-minute meeting with Mr. John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade.

Mr. Tanaka has also promised to investigate the possibility of reducing the high tariff charged on shipments of Scotch whisky to Japan. He told Mr. Biffen that on his return, he would seek to promote a higher level of UK exports to Japan.

Mr. Biffen and his departmental officials were pleased by the sympathetic attitude adopted by the Japanese minister.

Discussions between the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and its Japanese counterpart are scheduled to take place next month.

Saudi denial

Saudi Arabian oil minister Shalika Yamani has denied reports that he said his country would cut its oil production. Asked if there was to be any change in prices and production, Shalika Yamani said: "There is no decision on that yet."

Construction decline

Britain's construction industry suffered another setback when new orders for the three months to the end of April fell 9 per cent to £1,157m compared with the previous quarter's £1,268m or 12 per cent lower than in the same period a year ago.

Exports double

The United Kingdom exported £128.6m worth of coal mining equipment to 84 countries last year, almost double the amount sold abroad five years ago. Chinese orders totalled £25.5m and the United States £24m.

BSC consultation

British Steel workers should be consulted on the corporation's plans for the industry up to 1985, Mr. Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said yesterday at his union's policy conference in Bournemouth.

Ships fraud protest

Seven international shipping, trade and insurance groups have protested to the Greek government over what they say is the slowness of maritime fraud investigations, in particular into the case of the sinking of the tanker, Salem.

Hospital cash call

M. J. H. Nightingale's Over-the-Counter market, yesterday announced its second venture into private hospital financing, to raise £1.2m for the Hertfordshire Independent Hospital at Hitchin. Applications are being invited for up to 900,000 9 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each.

Courtaulds pay rise

Spinning and weaving workers at Courtaulds are to receive a 3 per cent rise backdated to May 4. They will get a further 2 per cent in November.

Office automation

The Government is to spend £2m setting up eight new pilot systems on office automation in the public sector as a guide to management generally.

Wall Street down

The Dow-Jones industrial average closed 11.41 points down at 995.15. The \$=SDR was 1.16044 and the £=SDR was 0.583106.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
CRA 7p to 27sp	Johnson Matt 12p to 27 1/2p
Cornell Dresses 7p to 16sp	Ricardo Eng 15p to 44sp
Chertfield 5p to 33sp	Tankers Cons 3p to 30sp
Harrison Cros 15p to 85sp	Weeks Petrol 5p to 43sp
Pauls Whites 7p to 15sp	
Falls	
BP 18p to 33sp	
Castellfield 10p to 48sp	
Glaxo Holdings 6p to 28sp	
ICI 5p to 53sp	
Lamson	

Bank seeks tougher curbs on pay rises

By John Whitmore

MONEY SUPPLY

Figures released for the monthly amount of money in circulation, seasonally adjusted at the mid-month dates.

	£100m	£1,000m	Private sector liquidity
1980			
April	27.7	57.6	100.4
May	27.8	58.7	111.0
June	28.5	59.2	115.8
July	29.5	62.3	119.8
August	28.5	63.4	114.8
Sept	28.4	63.5	115.8
October	28.9	65.9	118.2
Nov	29.4	66.2	119.1
Dec	29.4	66.6	118.0
1981			
Jan	29.3	67.3	120.8
Feb	29.7	67.6	121.8
March	29.5	68.1	122.8
April	30.9	68.4	125.3
May	31.2	70.5	126.6

**MONTHLY CHANGE IN
STERLING M3 AND DOMESTIC
CREDIT EXPANSION**

	Domestic credit expansion	£100m	£1,000m	Private sector liquidity
1980				
April	+1.347	+898	+268	+462
May	+1.585	+1,133	+349	+551
June	+1.729	+1,258	+382	+596
July	+2.229	+1,572	+449	+730
Aug	+1.123	+738	+228	+369
Sept	+1.211	+808	+247	+395
Oct	+1.885	+1,306	+347	+508
Nov	+2.313	+1,584	+473	+708
Dec	+2.421	+1,620	+485	+737
Jan	+2.810	+1,820	+554	+824
Feb	+2.683	+1,723	+523	+780
March	+1.082	+673	+210	+416
April	+4.655	+1,974	+583	+1,488
May	+4.4	+1,084	+314	+1,057

Workers in many industries may have to accept negligible pay rises for a number of years if there is to be any sustained improvement in the United Kingdom's competitiveness in international markets, the Bank of England warned yesterday.

Larger pay increases would have to be paid for out of increased productivity.

In effect, the Bank is setting out the case for wage restraint in an even tougher way than the Prime Minister, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have done.

The Bank's observation in the Bank's observations that a fall in living standards is necessary if the economy is to be put on a sounder footing.

The Bank's comments come in the latest edition of its quarterly bulletin. It makes no attempt to state whether an incomes policy would be appropriate, but merely notes that significant progress has been made recently towards restoring the process of deterring competitiveness. Companies probably will continue to make great efforts to improve their competitive position, it says.

The Bank has consistently noted the sharp deterioration in the United Kingdom's competitiveness in previous bulletins.

It now estimates that the strong growth in pay in earlier pay rounds, together with the sharp rise in the sterling exchange rate, led to a 20 per cent deterioration in competitiveness in 1979 and an even larger decline in 1980.

The Bank, however, takes some heart from the trend of lower wage awards in the present pay round. It also sees some tentative signs of improvement in productivity. But the Bank is sceptical that an easier solution to the problem might lie in a depreciation of the exchange rate.

Any competitive advantage gained from a lower exchange rate would only be maintained if wages failed to accelerate in response to the faster rise in retail prices, it says.

On the general state of the economy, the Bank feels that the worst of the fall in output may now be over. But it sees few signs as yet of any sustained recovery.

The Bank finds it difficult to take a particularly optimistic view of any of the major components of demand. Although it notes that output is now declining more slowly, it says that the rate of growth of investment will fall further this year and that consumer demand will weaken unless there is a run-down in savings.

The Bank feels, however, that monetary growth is roughly on target at present.

Although the true trend in the monetary aggregates becomes increasingly obscure the longer the civil servants' industrial action continues, the bulletin says that present indications are that, for these distortions, the recent growth of sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, would have been in line with the present target range of 6 to 10 per cent annual growth.

The full May money supply figures, released yesterday, confirmed earlier estimates by the Bank that sterling M3 grew by 11 per cent during the month, or by an estimated 1-1 per cent.

The figures reveal that the public sector has been the leading force in the recent credit expansion of £1,064m. Bank lending to the private sector rose by only £44m (though this was probably a significant understatement of the underlying trend) while sterling lending overseas fell by £123m.

Two notable features of the figures were the high level of National Savings Investment by the private sector (£732m) and the further large increase in United Kingdom residents' foreign currency deposits (£770m, of which £300m was attributable to valuation changes).

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Williams and Glyn's offer free banking

By Catherine Guno

Customers of Williams and Glyn's Bank will no longer pay bank charges however low they run their accounts—and they may even dip briefly into the red without incurring charges on their transactions.

Yesterday Williams and Glyn's, sister bank of the Royal Bank of Scotland, abolished its £50 minimum balance below which bank charges were levied on transactions, but has kept its system of notional allowances.

The system, permits accounts normally in credit to be overdrawn by up to 7 per cent of their normal quarterly credit balance before transactions will be charged for.

The news was received with interest by the four big clearing banks, which have just completed a round of increases in their own bank charges and, in the case of the Midland, doubling its minimum credit balance, to £100.

We are trying to represent ourselves as an alternative bank and we thought we'd change our tariff in an alternative way," Mr. Bob Farley, a director of Williams and Glyn's, said yesterday.

Williams and Glyn's hopes that its return to free banking will help to boost its modest 3 per cent share of the Royal Bank of Scotland group, presently the subject of rival bids from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank. Both bids are being examined by the Monopolies Commission.

When Williams and Glyn's customers do incur bank charges, it will cost them more. The firm says a time to other transactions have risen from 7p to 10p an item, and other transactions have risen from 15p to 20p each.

This is broadly in line with the big four clearing banks' charges which now range from 12p to 20p on automated items, and from 17p to 20p on other transactions. Minimum balances range from £50, at the National Westminster, to £100 at the other three.

In May Barclays started the banking scene when it decided to charge for cashing cheques at its branches. Barclays began the minimum balance system in May, 1971 with a £50 floor. The Midland followed suit in 1972 and Lloyds and the National Westminster took up the system in 1974.

Until yesterday only the Co-operative Bank and National Giro offered customers free banking.

Lloyd's call for sell-off approval

By Richard Allen

Mr. Peter Green, the chairman of Lloyd's has written to members urging them to approve a parliamentary demand that the sell-off of their underwriting interests in the market within five years.

But in the same letter he launches an attack on a second parliamentary call for inclusion of the so-called "divorce clause" in the Lloyd's Bill. This would allow members who look at members' affairs from controlling underwriting syndicates.

The chairman stops short of asking the market's 19,000 members to vote on both demands on July 17. But he says: "I believe that Lloyd's would be gravely weakened if we adopted the 'divorce' proposition."

Lloyd's officials have been warned that the Bill, designed to improve self-regulation, may have to be withdrawn if either of the parliamentary demands for changes is rejected. However the market's ruling committee is still hopeful that the matter may go back to the Commons for further debate if the "divorce" clause is opposed.

BOC rights issue fails to tempt City

By Michael Clark

Underwriters of BOC International's recent £32m convertible rights issue seem almost certain to have been left with 70 to 80 per cent of the stock. Speculation was rising in the City last night that the recent cash call had proved a failure, with few of the big City institutions taking up their allocations.

Last night the price of the convertible unsecured loan stock 2001/2006 issued at £100 remained at a discount, closing at £99.

Paul Bonanet, finance director of BOC, admitted that very little money had so far been received, but he added that this was not unusual. He said he had heard of no speculation from the City suggesting that the terms of the stock would be left with the underwriters and was, therefore, unwilling to comment.

Sources close to BOC admitted that there was every possibility of between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the stock not being taken up as the market had proved weaker since the announcement of the rights.

Although only a few acceptances have been received ahead of the call at 3 pm today the source claimed that this was not significant because acceptances often arrive just before the deadline expires.

The rights issue from BOC, announced at the end of May, was one of several big issues accurately forecast by many of the dealers in the stock market.

Reports of a disagreement between the board of BOC and Lazard's, its financial advisers, over the terms of the rights issue did little to encourage the institutions.

The board of BOC was believed to have wanted to make the terms more attractive to investors to increase its chances of the cash being allotted in full.

Shares of BOC last night dipped 2p to 124p with many brokers ready to accept the worst.

Big gains for US dollar as interest rates surge

By Frances Williams

The dollar made substantial gains on all leading currencies yesterday in response to a fresh surge in domestic interest rates. This renewed expectations that the United States rates were likely to remain high for some time, despite signs of an economic slowdown.

The dollar jumped 1.90 pfennigs against the Deutsche Mark, against which it is chiefly measured, to end London trading at DM 2.3667. Its trade-weighted exchange rate index, as calculated by the Bank of England, rose 0.9 to 108.1.

The pound lost 2.10 cents on the dollar, to close in London at \$1.9765, but it was fairly steady against Continental currencies.

The United States Federal Reserve rate was trading at about 20 to 20 1/2 per cent when London markets closed, compared with 18 to 18 1/2 per cent earlier in the week.

Continued moves by the Federal Reserve Board to keep the Fed Funds rate high are puzzling some observers. United States money supply growth has been slowing, according to the latest figures, and all the signs are that economic activity is slackening.

Doubling the efficiency of double-glazing Silicon chip spin-off saves energy

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The micro-chip may no longer be the only prime product from California's Silicon Valley. Launched in London and Scandinavia yesterday was an energy-saving product, a spin-off from silicon chip manufacturing techniques, whose first application will be in double-glazing.

See-through plastic film, a specialized ICI development produced in Scotland, is part of the product, which acts as a heat shield and is said to more than double the effectiveness of double-glazed window units at only a 15 per cent increase in costs.

Talks on exploiting the new product, which was developed in association with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and recently put on the North American market by Southwall Corporation of California, are now being held with a number of British double-glazing producers by the United Kingdom distributor, Manchester-based Wright & Offland, a one-time glass-embossing company, now one of the largest British independent glass distributors.

A 5 per cent share of the £200m-a-year double-glazing market within two years is being looked for by Mr. Roy Offland, the distributor's joint managing director. But other substantial applications are likely, including glasshouses for horticulture.

One of the qualities of the product, launched as a heat mirror, is that it allows through

visible light rays while bouncing back long-wave rays in the infrared spectrum, the source of radiant heat. Radiant heat exterior to a surface, such as a glass pane, is kept outside; equally, interior heat is trapped. A substantial market is envisaged in refrigerated shop display cabinets, whose doors are often at present kept condensation-free only at the cost of heating the glass door.

In double-glazed units the plastic film mirror is trapped between the panes and if this is done under tension the film cannot be seen. ICI has developed a film which it says has an acceptable resistance to discolouration and deterioration.

Mr. Mel Hodge, an electrical engineer who is president and chief executive of Southwall Corporation, sees the heat mirror technology as the biggest breakthrough in window insulation since double-glazing was first used in 1865. If all Britain's windows had it there would theoretically be a saving of 200,000 barrels of oil a day or a 5 per cent saving in the nation's energy bill, he claims.

There is new in the heat mirror is not the basic technology but the industrial application on a mass production basis which initially will all be carried out in California, with the expectation of doubling production annually for the next five years.

Two new names for the Trident TV companies

By David Hewson



Mr. Ward Thomas: negotiated merger.

The many-headed media empire of Pearson Longman, and the Sunderland brewers Vaux are likely to emerge as the main new financial backers of the Yorkshire and Tyne Tees television companies within a week.

The financial structure of both companies has been under question since the Independent Broadcasting Authority decided last December that Trident had to direct itself of a majority shareholder in both companies.

Trident is expected to announce an extraordinary general meeting at the end of this month to approve a new share structure for both stations. There is little doubt that the meeting will approve Trident's recommendation.

Though the company, which has enjoyed control of the two television companies for the last 10 years, will lose outright control, it will maintain an

years ago with the blessing of the then Independent Television Authority, and largely by Mr. G. E. Ward Thomas, now chairman of Trident.

Trident expects to take a 15 per cent stake in the new Yorkshire station and 25 per cent in Tyne Tees in a financial shake-up which has already been agreed by the IBA. In addition, it will lease the Leeds headquarters of YTV to the new Yorkshire company, and one new studio to Tyne Tees before selling them in two years' time.

There will be no majority partners in either of the new Yorkshire and Tyne Tees stations. Pearson Longman, which publishes the *Financial Times* and the *Economist*, and owns the Westminster Press provincial group and Penguin Books, is expected to take a stake of at least 20 per cent in the Yorkshire company while the rest of the equity is broken up into smaller shareholdings.

State stake in BP to be cut

By Ronald Pullen



Signing the underwriting agreement yesterday, from left, are Mr. J. Hull of J. Henry Schroder Wagg, Mr. G. W. Mackworth-Young of Morgan Grenfell, Mr. Q. Morris, financial director of BP, Mr. R. Adam, deputy chairman of BP, and Mr. L. J. Fraser of Lazard.

British Petroleum yesterday launched the largest-ever cash-raising move by the private sector in the London stock market. Ending nearly two weeks of persistent speculation, BP is asking shareholders to put another £600m into the group to pay for new investment in the 1980s.

This is almost three times more than the last biggest rights issue from Imperial Chemical Industries in 1976 and is slightly higher than all the new money raised by private companies on the stockmarket so far this year.

The Government and the Bank of England, which between them own almost 45 per cent of BP's shares, have decided not to take up their entitlement because of the pressure it would cause to the borrowing requirement.

Mr. Nigel Lawson, Financial

Secretary to the Treasury, in a Commons reply yesterday said that it would have cost £280m to maintain these buildings. As a result state holdings, which were cut 17 per cent in 1977 and another 5 per cent two years ago, will drop to 39 per cent.

The Government's decision not to take up its rights has complicated the terms of the issue which is having to be made in two parts. Shareholders are being offered new shares for every seven now held at 275p, payable in two instalments, against a market price of 330p after yesterday's 18p fall in the BP share price. The Government's holding is being offered to existing shareholders at 290p.

Despite some initial worries, the underwriting of the offer by City investing institutions went fairly smoothly yesterday, although the need to contact

more than 600 investors took time and the process was not finished until mid-afternoon.

Of the total £624m BP is raising, just over 56m goes to the Government in capital duty (the old stamp duty) and the remaining £568m will go to the underwriters and the army of lawyers, bankers and other advisers who have been working on this for the last 13 weeks.

Sir David Steel, who soon resigns as chairman of BP, explained that more money was needed for profitable investment outside the oil business in the 1980s.

Along with other oil companies, BP has been steadily diversifying away from oil following the moves by the oil-producing countries in the 1970s to take control of crude production.

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Judgment reserved in Burmah Oil case

The High Court in London yesterday reserved judgment on Burmah Oil's £1,000m claim against the Bank of England.

Burmah, which was bailed out by the Bank in return for its 20.1 per cent shareholding in British Petroleum, alleges that the Bank took advantage of it in the aftermath of the 1974 oil crisis, and is seeking to recover the current value of the 77,817,507 shares.

The Bank has contested Burmah's claim that the sale agreement was an "unconscionable" bargain which the court ought to overrule.

The hearing, which began on June 2, had been expected to take two months to argue but

took less than three weeks. In his final submissions on behalf of Burmah, Mr. Leonard Hoffmann, QC, said that Burmah had been forced to sell in a hurry without being able to explore the market.

The price actually paid by the Bank should be compared with the price that would have been achieved without the constraint of a forced sale.

Yet the criterion used to fix the price of a block of shares which ordinarily would be sold with an eye to long-term considerations, was an average of prices over a short period during a time of completely untypical trading on the Stock Exchange, he said.

Mr. Justice Walton commented: "I cannot at the moment see a logical method of valuation. Everybody agrees the Stock Exchange was not really a very suitable yardstick, but it was the only one in existence and one from which at any rate one side would undoubtedly start."

Mr. Hoffmann said the sale of the BP shares was only one part of a rescue package which was "onerous" to Burmah. There was also an obligation to develop the North Sea fields.

In Burmah's cash position, it would be inevitable in the end that Burmah would have to sell its North Sea interests, which it subsequently did.



A year of sound progress

Results for the year ended	1981	1980
Banking profit	£792,000	£643,000
Non-banking profits less interest and minorities	785,000	655,000
Profit after tax	1,577,000	1,298,000
Extraordinary items (non-banking group)	896,000	9,000
Group profit for the year	£2,473,000	£1,307,000

A final dividend is recommended of 8p per share, making 12p for the year (11.0p per share last year).

The Group has made sound progress with profits before extraordinary items up 21% and after such items up 89%.

An encouraging start has been made to the present year.

A. R. C. Arbuthnot, Chairman

The Annual General Meeting of Arbuthnot Latham Holdings Limited will be held on Thursday, 30th July, 1981. Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 1st July from the Secretary, 37 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BY.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Paying the price of reshaping BP

British Petroleum has finally put the City out of its misery with the confirmation of its £600m rights issue. The prospect of such a mammoth cash-raising move at a time when a steady flow of rights issues elsewhere has been soaking up institutional cash has been enough to keep equities on the defensive for the past ten days since the rumours of a BP call became rife. But the market managed to take the news calmly yesterday with most of the 3.7 points fall to 541.1 in the Financial Times index down to the weakness in the BP price which closed 18p down at 330p.

Clearly the issue is going to restrain the market for a while even though the money is due to be paid in two stages. But at least BP has not attempted to squeeze tight terms out of shareholders with the 1-for-7 basis at 275p for the non-state holdings a comfortable 21 per cent discount on the overnight price while the ex-rights yield is a very attractive 9 per cent. And while there were some hiccups with the underwriting, most regarded the terms generous enough and the need to keep up their BP portfolio weighing strong enough to take up what was offered. As it is BP is proving to be something of a bonanza for the City with the underwriting fees alone worth some £12.6m and the total cost of the issue including capital duty running at almost £24m.

Unperturbed

If the City seemed relatively unperturbed by the issue, shareholders should view it with more reservations. While BP itself was making the right sort of bland noises about needing the money for profitable investment outside of its mainstream oil business, the timing of the issue—between better than expected first-quarter figures and what are expected to be very poor results for at least the next two quarters—suggests that BP has been forced into it on more pressing financial grounds.

Unfortunately, the inclusion of the cash-rich United States Sohio subsidiary gives the BP balance sheet an illusory strength since those funds are not available elsewhere in the business. Borrowings last year jumped by £553m as BP's cash flow was insufficient to cover capital spending (including the £410m spent on Selection Trust) and taxes despite the attack on working capital through the run down of oil stocks. This year the trading position outside North America has gone from bad to worse with heavy losses in chemicals, refining and marketing and with a commitment to a capital spend almost as much as last year's £2,200m BP is heading for a sizeable cash deficit in the current year. In addition the group's heavy borrowing programme in the 1970s to fund its expansion into the North Sea and Alaska is coming to a crunch with almost £2,000m of BP's total debt of £4,540m due to be repaid by next March.

Structural change

So private shareholders, whose holdings will jump by 23 per cent as a result of the Government's decision not to take up its rights, are being asked to take a lot on trust at a time when the outlook for BP looks markedly worse than for, say, Shell. Indeed a harsh critic would say that BP's issue is simply making shareholders pay for BP's failures over the past few years to come to terms with the changed circumstances in the world oil industry. BP appears to have been much slower than Shell in adjusting to its position of being a crude short rather than the crude rich position it enjoyed in the 1970s. It has failed to make the necessary structural changes downstream to compete in world markets in contrast to Shell which is five years ahead in its programme to upgrade its refineries and the cut of the barrel where it makes its profits. That arguably is what shareholders are now putting their money up for not the reorientation of the group in the 1980s the board is now arguing.

Meanwhile, the decision to go for a straight rights issue instead of a Eurobond or other convertible issue looks expensive given the earnings dilution and the ACT problems on the dividend. But BP justifies it on the grounds that it was cheaper after tax.

● The staff buy-out plan for National Freight Company is an intriguing development in the Government's privatization programme. It is highly ambitious in its desire to transfer the entire company into the hands of its employees and it is an indication of the way the Tories' evangelizing belief in the desirability of the open market taking on public sector enterprises has had.

to be carefully tailored to the real world. For there can be little doubt that a straight flotation of NFC presented enormous problems arising from the disentangling of its structure and in pricing on the basis of its somewhat erratic record. The sickening slump in the performance of British Airways has already left that slice of privatization somewhere far in the future and further slippage in the schedule would have begun to look suspiciously like radical underachievement by the time the next election came around.

Philosophically, of course, the move chimes in with the growing feeling in some circles inside and outside Government that the existing capital market structure is too rigid to take on the demands of privatization at one end and new venture capital at the other. As the biggest ever management buy-out, NFC could, in this context, represent a significant landmark in the path of Government industrial policy.

English China Clays

Managing the volume drop

With four-fifths of clay production sold into the depressed paper industry and the same proportion exported, it is no surprise that English China Clays has seen last year's fall in volume accelerate. Deliveries tumbled by 16 per cent in the first half and although a combination of early retirement, closure of less efficient pits and government assistance have helped to contain costs, there was only partial relief from the 7 per cent price rise in January.

But considering that the first half has also borne lower profits from quarries where volumes were up to 18 per cent lower and the seasonally poor result from the holiday side, a 22 per cent drop in pretax profits to £14.9m on sales down by 9 per cent to £155m looks a fair achievement for such a capital intensive company. Enough, in fact with the 8 per cent dividend rise to lift the shares 2p to 120p.

At this stage ECC sees no likelihood of an upturn before the autumn at earliest and despite an 8 per cent pay settlement in March the market is unlikely to bear another price rise in clay before next January. But demand has at least flattened out and the United States clay operations have been suffering far less from the recession than the domestic side. There will also be a second half contribution from holidays to look forward to while activity in the house-building division has been picking up.

So full-year profits should run out between £33m to £35m compared with last year's £30.5m to give a full-year p/e ratio of about 12 and a yield of 7.7 per cent if the final dividend follows the interim up. When demand recovers and prices can be pushed up, ECC's profits should quickly recover and the fall in sterling against the dollar will tend to ease competitive pressures in the future, all of which suggests that the shares are still mildly attractive for the safe yield even though the dividend will not be covered under CCA.

● The gilt-edged market found a moment to catch a glimpse of the unenviably firm trend in short term United States interest rates—the Fed Funds rate was again around the 20 per cent level—and marked prices lower across the board.

The full May money supply figures went largely unnoticed. The Bank confirmed that sterling M3 rose by 1 1/2 per cent, and probably by 1-1 1/2 per cent after making allowance for the effects of the civil servants' industrial action. That seems to leave underlying growth in line with the 6-10 per cent target, but, as the Bank says, the longer the dispute continues the denser the fog gets.

On the face of it, the increase of only £44m in bank lending to the private sector looks rather encouraging. But the assumption must be that it significantly understates the underlying trend.

Certainly, the much slower rate of increase in M1 last month (0.6 per cent against 4.9 per cent in April) suggests that companies may have been increasingly using uncleared money to run down borrowing rather than building up fresh deposits.

One figure that does stick out clearly through the fog, however, is the contribution to monetary control in May made by the sale of National Savings Instruments. These totalled a record £733m, helped in large part by final sales of the Nineteenth Issue of savings certificates. The authorities will not be able to rely on that kind of help in future.

Getting a freight consortium on the road

The Government's policy of "privatization" received a considerable boost yesterday with the news that senior management of the National Freight Corporation have offered to buy the organization and offer shares to employees.

It is expected that the NFC, previously the National Freight Corporation, will cost its potential owners at least £30m and that the 28,000 management and staff will raise up to £6m themselves and have control of the company.

Businesses over which they would in future have control include such household names as British Road Services and Pickfords. Ironically, operations which in many people's minds are associated with private sector industry rather than an amorphous nationalized conglomerate.

The corporation was established under the Transport Act 1963 as part of the then government's attempt to nationalize the road haulage industry. But, unlike other publicly-owned organizations, it never achieved a monopoly, while it was always the biggest concern in its field, it never controlled more than 10 per cent of the road haulage market.

This minority share allowed it to be seen as the perfect example of a publicly owned company fighting with private firms within the disciplines imposed by the mixed economy. In the middle of the 1970s, however, the corporation had to battle with severe financial problems brought on particularly by the fact that it was allowed to borrow money from the Government which it then had to pay back at high interest rates.

Nevertheless, from a loss of £10m in 1975 it turned in a trading profit of £4m in 1976 and in the next two financial years achieved profits in excess of £20m. The recession, however, pushed it into the red.

The corporation was the only state organization to be named in the Government's general election manifesto in 1979 as a candidate for return to the private sector, a process which was eased by the acquiescence of senior board members.

The transfer to a limited liability company last year marked the first stage of the Government's plans to sell NFC to the private sector; although it was expected that a sale of shares would not occur until the middle of 1982 at the earliest.

The newly formed company took over the assets, liabilities and businesses of the old NFC, including road haulage, cold storage, travel and removals. Mr Thompson, the man previously in charge of the NFC since 1977, having joined the organization as group coordinator of British Road Services in 1972. Before that he was chief controller for the Bank of England and head of the British Steel Corporation (1968-72).

A former rugby player he now confines himself to less arduous ball games like golf and tennis, though he is unlikely to have much time for such pursuits over the next few months.

Mr Thompson has been a long-time advocate of privatization, but under the Labour Government was not above asking the powers-that-be to give the haulage industry in general (and of course the NFC itself) some shelter when times were hard.

His theme in those days was that the Government should restrict entry into the industry in depressed times. When demand was low, established hauliers were too often going to the wall, while new entrants were coming in and exacerbating the situation.

Speaking at an international transport conference in 1978 he likened road haulage to a cottage industry in which anybody with a persuasive manner could get a lorry and set up in business. He will doubtless be hoping that his own powers of persuasion will not flag in the coming weeks.

Edward Townsend

How the Arabs moved into international banking

There is an air of relaxation among international bankers on the subject of petrodollar recycling these days. Whatever fears were being aired a year or so ago over the international financial system's ability to recycle the vast enlarged oil surpluses to deficit nations have largely evaporated.

They have been done so owes much to the startling emergence of Arab-owned banks as a major power in world banking markets.

Over the past 18 months international bankers have increasingly come to recognize the willingness of hitherto marginal Arab banks to participate on a growing scale in the big syndicated credits which form the backbone of the recycling process.

The full extent of the Arab commitment to the development of a banking presence has only lately become apparent. The story of the rise of the Arab banks is a tale of rapid transformation of a number of recently formed institutions. While still relatively small in absolute terms, their growth has been on a scale rarely seen in the cautious world of banking. Even the expansion of Britain's ill-fated secondary banks in the early 1970s pales by comparison.

Take the case of Gulf International Bank, which is fairly typical. Owned by seven Arab governments, its assets doubled last year to \$2,833m (\$1,449m). To underpin this growth the shareholders have this year put in a new capital of \$200m, compared to \$125m last December. The low portfolio, which was a mere \$73.6m at the end of 1977,

reached \$1,130m by the end of 1980. The bank helped manage loans totalling over \$12,000m, four times the 1978 figure. Others can tell a similar story. Arab Banking Corporation was set up in January 1980. By the end of its first year of trading the balance sheet totalled almost \$2,000m. Since then it has risen to well in excess of \$3,000m.

Arab Latin American Bank also backed by a new capital injection, doubled in size last year. Saudi International Bank grew by 56 per cent, while Saudi Investment Banking Corporation, set up in 1976, was up by 84 per cent and Arab African International Bank by 46 per cent. Assets of Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises increased by 40 per cent, and while European Arab Bank's growth was a more modest 17 per cent its profits were well over double.

Even these impressive figures are now looking sadly out of date. Between January and April this year, according to Morgan Guaranty Trust's calculations, Euro-loans in which Arab banks played a lead or co-lead management role totalled \$12,000m. This is already 50 per cent up on the entire 1980 figure. By volume, they participated in almost 45 per cent of all "publicized" Eurocurrency credits, compared to just over 10 per cent in the whole of last year. Clearly there is no slackening of momentum.

If there is any surprise in all of this, it is not so much that it is happening as that it has taken the Arabs so long to get aboard the banking bandwagon.

The logic is not unlike that which has taken several oil rich states downstream into such fields as petrochemicals and shipping. If there are profits to be made from the transformation of raw material—whether it be crude oil or money—into some more sophisticated product, why should the Arabs allow those profits to be siphoned off by outside intermediaries?

In the case of banking this means that instead of simply facing the oil surpluses on deposit with Western banks—which is what mostly happened in the mid-1970s—the Arabs, as shareholders as well as depositors in their own banks, should keep to themselves the margins earned on lending and the arrangement of financing packages.

To the extent that the Arabs commit themselves to capitalizing their own banks or to involving themselves in the longer term investment banking markets there is a high probability that the highly-prized flexibility and safety which prompted them earlier to concentrate on short-term depositing with Western banks.

The Arab-owned banks do not have behind them the luxury of a Western central bank to act as ultimate lender of last resort and thus as effective guarantor of their deposits. The banking risks are obviously having to be borne by the Arabs themselves.

There has, however, been growing doubt about how flexible and secure the policy of depositing with Western banks really is. Bulk withdrawal of funds is not practical without

exposing the bank in question to severe liquidity pressures. And the freezing of Iranian funds by the American banks has raised serious questions about the independence of the Western banking system from political interference.

Further, some Arab depositors have come to recognize that the accumulation of ever larger balances in Western banks could ultimately be counterproductive. One of the main fears raised by bankers since the last round of oil price increases was that their balance sheets might not be sufficiently strongly capitalized to enable them to take on board the deposits necessary to meet the financing needs. Had this worry proved justified, the would-be depositors could well have found themselves being discouraged from adding to their existing deposits, perhaps through the device of discriminatory low interest rates.

By expanding their own banks the Arabs have, in fact, done much to make sure that the feared balance sheet problems are contained. In a word, they have added to world banking capacity just at the time when it is most needed most.

A less happy consequence from the point of view of international bankers is that the emergence of aggressive, asset hungry Arab banks, by adding to the liquidity of the market, is contributing to the downward pressure upon leading margins which are already extremely thin. But then they cannot expect to have it all ways.

Christopher Wilkins

Technology

As much as a human can bear...

Millions of man-hours are lost to industry through employees suffering backache or strain caused by operating poorly designed machines and tools or moving awkward and heavy loads. Production is also interrupted by injury from other causes, such as vibration and excessive noise.

Although these occupational hazards are well recognized, eliminating them is another matter; and they are not problems that disappear overnight by a wave of the magic wand of new technology.

But help is coming from a new quarter. A team of scientists, engineers and ergonomists are working together to plan their workshops and manufacturing lines to take account of these hazards. The necessary information is emerging from a recently formed team of Ministry of Defence scientists at the Army Personnel Research Establishment at Farnborough. They are measuring factors which limit a soldier's ability to cope with advanced technical equipment and new types of vehicles, or to carry out routine jobs under difficult working conditions.

The problems of the factory and office manager may at first sight seem distant from those of the Army. Indeed, the military research emerged because the generals foresaw that the development of a wide range of new equipment, including man-operated guided missiles and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, had important

implications for the efficiency of the soldier on the battlefield.

A task force of 120 physiologists, biologists, psychologists, computer scientists, technicians and soldiers is the force looking for the point at which human factors set the limit to the use of technology. It is the stage at which the matter how advanced the engineering, it is the man who causes the complicated equipment to fail.

Dr John Helms, director of the establishment, says: "In an era when there is almost nothing the engineer cannot build, man is the limiting factor. The research programme marks a new stage in the evolution of the army in looking at how best to make the soldier and technology compatible. If we do not get the relationship right, the next battlefield could be a shambles."

To meet the vast range of occupational hazards faced by the armed forces, the research group is measuring the limits imposed by physical stress arising from heat and cold, noise and vibration; psychological stress of putting high technology systems into battle-ground conditions. The Army also has an obligation during peacetime and training exercises to ensure that its men are not exposed to greater risks to say, hearing than those encountered in a well-run industry.

Trials to discover how stress cuts the efficiency of a man with a guided missile or a new

tank electronic control and firing system, perhaps by reducing his "hit rate" from 100 per cent to only 50, may appear to be a special military requirement. But it is also relevant to the introduction in industry and commerce of new technologies with keyboard controls and visual displays. The psychological fear of the battlefield may be missing, but measurements of the degree to which an operator's skill is impaired by constant noise and other stressful interruptions are of concern to all businessmen.

Different patterns of noise are measured at Farnborough because damage to hearing is produced in various ways. Impulse noise from gunfire produces very high pressures on the ear of a short duration, making the effects on the ear difficult to measure.

For instance, a rifle shot produces a maximum pressure of 160 decibels, lasting less than a hundredth of a second, at the ear of the marksman, whereas a typical industrial noise might reach an average level of 90 decibels over most of the working day. Some idea of what noise levels are given by what a person hears about 20ft from a roadway—for motor cycles it is 83 decibels, cars 87, light commercial vehicles 83 and heavy lorries 92.

The effect on the body of lifting, loading and carrying objects is perhaps the work that has the widest common application in industry and the Army. But the methods used in the research team and the trials

section—a group of regular soldiers seconded for two years for this work—measure physiological limitations imposed by physical stress and strain are far from usual.

The measurements involve monitoring muscle fatigue by analysing the bioelectric signals produced during movement and a steady state of energy expended and the muscle strength. An indication of the strain on the cardiovascular system is made by recording variations in heart rates during work. A tiny cassette tape recorder attached to the individual's clothing logs the signals.

Particular tasks scrutinized at Farnborough include such things as the physiological strain in loading 12mm ammunition within the turret workspace independent of the workday. The importance of this type of study was underlined by an analysis of the prototype of an advanced new armoured vehicle, which the specialists in human engineering found that a new crew of about 5 per cent of the men in the Army.

Much of this information is being compiled as manuals that will be available to industry as well as suppliers of defence equipment to the Ministry of Defence. It will provide a new valuable material for the scientific discipline known as ergonomics—fitting the job to the worker—to which several university and polytechnic research groups have also made important contributions.

Pearce Wright

Business Diary: Entering the lists

America's "junk mailers" have produced a booklet telling victims not only how they get on to mailing lists but how to get off them—and stay off.

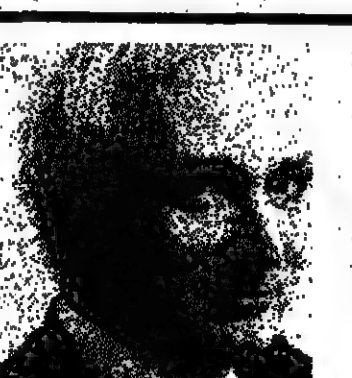
I telephoned the Direct Mail Marketing Association in New York yesterday to ask how widely the booklet was being mailed, but its number was busy, possibly with calls from householders asking to be left in peace.

You get on a mailing list, the DMAA says, simply by being in the telephone book, or by owning a car or house, or belonging to a professional association—all leading to your being publicly listed.

You get on still more lists by dealing with a mail order company, which may then rent out your name, unless you specifically ask them not to.

To get off—and stay off—some lists, you add your name to yet another list which the association circulates to members, although junk mail will continue to roll in from non-DMAA firms.

The association says: "Just about the only way not to be on some kind of mailing list is to become a hermit... and (verbally deleted)... you might find your name popping up on a list of 'American hermits'."

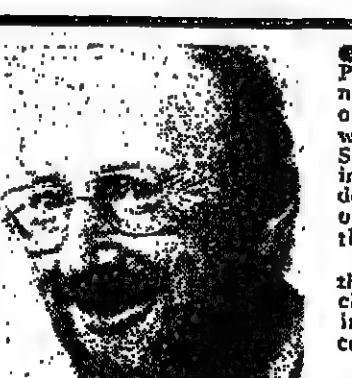


Novel intentions: publishers-to-be Clive Sinclair (right) and Patrick Browne, in London yesterday.

Clive Sinclair, the man whose Sinclair Radionics produced the Microvision pocket television, is returning to his first love, publishing. He is establishing a new fiction and non-fiction house, Sinclair Browne, with Cambridge bookseller Patrick Browne.

Sinclair, 40, a man who likes to do things in style, is also to offer a £5,000 annual Sinclair Prize for Fiction. This will be for a novel which is not only of great literary merit but also of social and political significance.

The chairman of the panel of judges will be Frank Kermode, the King Edward Pro-



Novel intentions: publishers-to-be Clive Sinclair (right) and Patrick Browne, in London yesterday.

fessor of English Literature at Cambridge, who lives and works in Cambridge, began as a technical journalist before founding Radionics nearly 20 years ago.

Like the other Oxbridge publisher, Robert Maxwell—whose Pergamon Press is at Oxford—Sinclair and Browne are particularly interested in putting out translations. However, theirs will be of fiction and not, like Pergamon's, of scientific periodicals.

Sinclair Browne is already commissioning work. Translation Book Club of existing titles is promised for September.

Peter Houldcroft and Doug Peppercorn have an unexpected, if nonetheless pleasant, task ahead of them next Thursday. They will be visiting Biddulph High School, Stoke on Trent, fulfilling their solemn duty as president and chairman respectively of the selection committee of the Institution of Metallurgists.

There they are to present their compliments and a £100 cheque to the winner of the institution's first annual essay competition.

The winner, most unexpectedly, is a girl—sixth former Celine Harris, who struck gold with an essay on the subject "Technology should be a compulsory part of the school curriculum."

But not only is a girl the overall winner, the joint winners of the second prize, worth £50, are also both girls—Frances Every of St. Andrew's School, Winchester, and Helen Rudman, of Henbury Comprehensive School, Bristol.

What makes this unusual is that metallurgy is very much a man's subject, at least as measured by membership of the Institution of Metallurgists. There are about 10,200 members, of whom "very few" are women. I learnt from the institution's north London headquarters.

The Nationalized Industries Chairman's Group is, I learn, united on the need to change its name, but cannot agree on the new one.

Among the ideas aired has been the "Group of Public Enterprises" (Grape). There is also the "Association of Chairmen of Nationalized Enterprises"—Acne.

Some might like the "Organization of Public Enterprise Chairmen", but then Opec is already spoken for.

In view of their present plight under Thatcherism, perhaps an opposite choice would be the "State Industries Chairmen's Club"—Sicc.

Ross Davies

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19th June, 1981

Motoring

Diesel needs a high mileage to make it pay

Sales of diesel cars in Britain during the first five months of this year were 4,053, or 40 per cent higher than during the same period of 1980. Even so, only one diesel car was sold for every 170 cars with petrol engines.

For all the talk of diesels being so economical and an answer to the fuel crisis, the market for diesel cars in Britain is still tiny compared with those of, say, Germany or France. The high price of diesel fuel cannot entirely account for that since Germany also has expensive diesel.

With diesel fuel costing in Britain up to 15p a gallon more than petrol, and with diesel cars costing more to buy in the first place, it takes a high annual mileage before the diesel's undoubted superiority in fuel consumption begins to pay.

Significantly, perhaps, none of our domestic manufacturers offers a diesel model, unless you count the Ford Granada which is made in Germany (and uses a French engine). A Jaguar diesel car is planned, but mainly for the United States market where the federal government has laid down minimum fuel consumption targets.

Fiat does not consider the British diesel market big enough to sell its 127, claimed to be the world's smallest diesel

model, here, though small sales are not deterring other continental manufacturers. The choice has been steadily growing from the time in the early 1970s when the only diesels offered were a Mercedes and a Peugeot.

Not only are there more but they are better. Whatever the economic calculations, the cars are a vast improvement on the ear-bashing, sluggish and foul-smelling vehicles of less than 10 years ago. Credit for this must go, as much as to anyone, to Volkswagen.

Volkswagen not only transformed the traditional diesel image but did so on a small car. The diesel Golf's outstanding fuel consumption was to be expected, but its quietness set new standards and it offered acceptable performance. All these benefits are now available on the Golf's saloon derivative, the Jetta, the diesel version of which has recently become available in Britain.

The engine which the two models use was developed from VW's 1.47-litre petrol unit and originally appeared in that size. It has since been uprated to 1.588-litre, and though acceleration and top speed are much as before, there is a useful increase in torque which improves top gear flexibility. On paper, performance seems modest: 0 to 60 mph through the gears takes about 17 seconds. Yet the car does not feel strained and once on the move it pulls away impressively. The maximum speed is 88 mph.

The main case for buying a diesel now is fuel consumption. In mixed driving with the Jetta I averaged 50 mpg and even in stop-start town driving that figure should not fall below 40 mpg. It is precisely because diesels are so economical in town that they are used for taxis on the open road, the gap between diesel and petrol consumption is much narrower.

The typical diesel engine clatter is very evident when first starting the car in the morning and also when idling in traffic. Otherwise the engine is as smooth and quiet as the best small petrol units. The fact that it is a diesel is easily forgotten. With little wind noise at speed the car can happily be cruised on the motorway without pain to the ears.

Diesel engines used to be notoriously slow to start, but on the Jetta cold starting is almost immediate. Even at zero temperatures, so Volkswagen says, the delay is only seven seconds. Nor was I aware of that foul-smelling (though relatively harmless) smoke that often emits from diesel exhausts.

Apart from fuel economy, the advantages of a diesel engine are reliability, durability and low maintenance. Volkswagen claims a service life for the Jetta diesel of at least double that for a petrol engine. Since a diesel has no carburettor, spark plugs, coil or distributor, there is less to go wrong.

The steering is heavier than on the petrol Jetta, particularly when parking, but otherwise the diesel engine has done nothing to alter the car's light and responsive handling, helped by a crisp gearchange and progressive brakes. The ride is on the firm side but well damped. The boot is huge, bigger than the Ford Cortina's, but a tall passenger can be short on head and leg room in the back seat.



Volkswagen Jetta — impressive small diesel

The Jetta diesel costs £5,004, or £800 more than the 1.3 litre petrol version which offers the closest comparison on level of equipment and performance. That is one consideration and the other is that diesel fuel is at least expensive as petrol. Pump prices seem to have risen more than for petrol. In the past few days I have seen them at anything between 152p and 167p a gallon.

Even on fuel consumption, the Jetta's diesel's excellent returns are almost matched by the most economical petrol cars, like the Metro HLE and the Suzuki. There are those who believe that the gap will be progressively narrowed as engineers find ways of making the traditional engines even more efficient.

Volkswagen has predicted that before the end of the 1980s one third of the world's car output will be diesel-powered. But however good models like the Jetta are, in Britain, at least, they will not pay for themselves except on exceptionally high mileages.

Fiat dies Poles

Fiat has finally got its way with the Polish car industry and had its name removed from the Polski-Fiat models. From now on they will be known in Britain by the brand name, FSO, standing for Fabryka Samochodów Ośmiorowych, the factory in Warsaw where they are assembled. The 125p saloons will have a new model name, Penza, though the hatchback will still be called the Polonez.

Poland is the second largest East European car producer after the Soviet Union. It owes this position to two licensing agreements made with Fiat. The first, in 1966, led to the manufacture of a Polish version of the Fiat 125 a medium saloon which was sold as the Polski-Fiat. For the Poles, the Fiat name was a useful marketing tool, lending familiarity to an otherwise unknown product.

The Italians, though, were less happy, particularly when the Polski-Fiat arrived in the west at what seemed like artificially low prices to com-

pete with other Fiat models. Since the 125 ceased production in Italy in 1972, such an old design, however cheap, was not going to threaten Fiat that much. But Fiat felt strongly enough to ask that its name should not be used, after more than five years of representations the Poles have agreed.

So the British Importers, Automotive Distributors of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, whose associated company sells Japanese Mazda cars, are having to re-launch the Polski-Fiat 125p as the FSO Penza. They are laying most stress on the price. The range starts at £2,449 for the 1300cc saloon; the 1500 saloon costs £2,575 and the 1500 estate £2,839. The only other family cars available at such prices are also East European imports, such as the Russian Lada and the Czechoslovak Skoda.

The main reason for these cars being so cheap is that countries like Poland and the Soviet Union are desperate for western currency. Whether the Penza, Lada and the rest are sold in the west below cost is impossible to determine. Suffice to say that the Polish or Russian motorist pays a much higher price and may have to wait up to two years to take delivery.

On the face of it, the Penzas are bargains. The design may be old, but it is tried and tested and to get a well-equipped family saloon for £2,500 may excite a few rough edges. When the Polski-Fiat first arrived in 1975 there were quality problems and as a result the importers introduced their own pre-delivery checks. The main argument against these cars is that they tend to lose their value quickly

and may be difficult to trade in against other makes.

Under the second licensing agreement between Fiat and the Poles, the little 126 car is made in Poland. In this case Fiat ensured there would be no clash between cheap cars from the East and its own products. The Polish-built Fiat 126s are exported only through Fiat outlets. As the 126 is no longer made in Italy, Britain and other western countries are supplied from Poland.

Present output of the Polish car industry is 220,000 126s a year and 150,000 Penza and Polonez models. The Polonez, drawing mechanically on the 125 but with a Polish-designed bodyshell, will gradually supersede the Penza and become the FSO factory's main model.

All the answers

Should you want to know what cars are manufactured in Korea, or Uruguay, or Nigeria, or anywhere else for that matter, the reference book you need is *World Cars*, of which the 1981 edition has just been published. It can claim to carry technical specifications and photographs of virtually every car in production, as well as some, like the Aston Martin Bulldog, which are not and may never be.

There are also surveys of the European, Japanese and United States car industries; a generously illustrated review of the 1980 Formula One season. Now in its twentieth year, *World Cars* is published by the Automobile Club of Italy and sold in Britain by Herald Books. High production standards help to justify a price of £16.75.

Peter Waymark

Car Buyer's Guide

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Messrs Baker, Rooke & Amsdoss, Harvey Preen & Co and Russam Claridge Turner, Chartered Accountants, announce the amalgamation of their practices from 1st July, 1981. The joint practice will be carried on under the name of Baker Rooke and the existing offices of all three firms. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

TEMPERING TIMES

£3.60 p.h. You are greatly (and with) 100/50, good experience and a bright personality. We have plenty of work to offer you in London in a director-level secretarial assignment. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

TEMPORARILY YOURS

Stella Fisher. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

CRONE CORKILL

Recruitment Consultants. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

TEMPORARILY YOURS

Stella Fisher. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

TEMPERING TIMES

EXPERIENCED SECRETARIES. Urgently required with good references for immediate assignments. 01-730 2212 (24 hrs.) JAYGAR CAREERS (CONSULTANTS)

OPPORTUNITIES RECRUITMENT

CAMP MANAGERS required for the Middle East. Foot and accompaniment. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

CAMP BODIES/CHEFS required for the Middle East. Foot and accompaniment. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

WINE BAR COOK

required for team of BUYERS. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

ALL PAIR BUREAU

required for team of BUYERS. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

RESIDENT CANTARINA

required for team of BUYERS. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

REQUIRED

MY DAUGHTER, 17, would like to come to England. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2300 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 54

